

BtN: Episode 5 Transcript 4/3/14

Coming up

- Find out where rubbish goes after it leaves your house.
- Our rookie reporters learn what marine scientists do and how they can help
- And meet some puppies trying to work out what they want to do when they grow up

Hey I'm Nathan and this is BtN. All that fun stuff is coming up soon but first there's some headlines to get through. Here they are now.

The Wire

Last week we showed you the violent protests in Ukraine which had taken over the capital Kiev. Well since then a lot's happened. The President ran away and a temporary government on the same side as the protestors has taken over until new elections can be held.

But the big news is that neighbouring country Russia has sent troops into one part of the country called Crimea and taken control. That area has a lot of people that speak Russian and are supportive of them.

Russia says they did it to protect their people. But the temporary Ukrainian government isn't happy about it at all.

They've put their armed forces on alert and called for the rest of the world to get involved.

Qantas has announced it will be cutting about five thousand jobs.

The airline recorded a huge loss and it's boss Alan Joyce said it needs to cut the jobs to save money.

Qantas is also calling on the government to allow companies from overseas could buy it.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott is all for it but it still needs support from the Labor government and independents to be passed in parliament.

And the red carpet was rolled out for the 86th Academy Awards! Aussie Cate Blanchett won the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in Blue Jasmine and fellow

Aussie Catherine Martin won two Oscars for costume and production design in Baz Luhrmann's film *The Great Gatsby*. Disney's *Frozen* took out best animated film and best song for 'Let it Go'. Matthew McConaughey won best actor for his role in *Dallas* *Buyers Club* and *12 Years A Slave* was named best picture.

Drought Help

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

INTRO: One of the big announcements this week was help for farmers struggling through their second year of drought. Tash found out what aid is on the way and why droughts are usually the last natural disaster to receive it.

NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER: Tsunamis, cyclones, bushfires, floods and earthquakes. They all have two things in common. They can create incredible destruction and they can happen extremely quickly. But there's one natural disaster that's a little different and that's drought.

Rather than hitting quickly with a huge amount of force, droughts come on slowly and they can take years to have a big impact on people which means even though they can be devastating, droughts don't get the same attention other natural disasters do. And those suffering through them often don't get the same help.

Three-quarters of Queensland is currently in drought and New South Wales isn't much better with 60 percent going without rain for the past two years. And the lack of water is having a huge impact on farmers.

Charles runs a beef farm. He's struggling to keep his animals alive.

CHARLES, FARMER: We're not trying to put on weight, we're just trying to keep them alive and not burn all our supply of feed.

This is James and his son and their sheep. They've had to buy hay for them because there's no grass.

JAMES, SHEEP FARMER: Looking down the barrel of maybe no income until the end of 2015 is extremely tough. It puts a lot of pressure on us financially.

Others are left with no other option but to sell their farm.

LOCAL FARMER: Our plan basically is you know if it hasn't rained by the end of March, we'll sell everything. We've got a lot booked into the meatworks now and we'll totally de-stock our place.

So how does a place end up in drought? I met up with a weather expert to find out!

REPORTER: So Darren, when does a dry patch actually become a drought?

DARREN RAY, WEATHER BUREAU: Well the Bureau of Meteorology looks at when areas of Australia have dry periods that go over about a year or two years at least.

DARREN It's been two summers now where we've had very little tropical rainfall coming down from the pacific in the north of Australia.

REPORTER: So do you think there is any good news for the people of Queensland and New South Wales?

DARREN It's certainly the possibility that we could see an extended period of dry conditions for another year or so.

To try to help struggling farmers, the Government's come up with a plan.

TONY ABBOTT, PRIME MINISTER: We think this is a significant and timely response to the existing crisis.

It's announced it's putting 320-million dollars towards helping Aussie farmers affected by the drought. Most of the money will go towards loans so they can pay their bills. The package will help farmers access emergency water supplies for their animals and pay to control feral animals and pests. And there will also be support for farmers and their families who are finding it hard to cope with the stress of the drought. While not everyone agrees with the governments plan, they do agree on the solution.

BEN, FARMER: Only rain can solve the issue that we have here.

And unfortunately rain seems a long way away.

Quiz 1

Okay let's try a quiz on that.

The question is:

The world's longest recorded drought went for how long?

Was it;

30 years?

100 years?

Or 400 years?

The answer is: 400 years!

That crazy dry spell took place in the Atacama Desert in Chile.

Food Labels

Reporter: Sarah Larsen

INTRO: Right, you've seen star ratings used to judge movies, dishwashers and stuff like that, but what about groceries? Well that's a plan the government's been working on recently. The idea is to help us make healthy choices but as Sarah found out, not everyone is in favour.

For a lot of people, keeping fit and healthy is really important. That means a lot of work out here and in here.

Sometimes it's really easy to spot what's good for you and what isn't, but sometimes it's a little more confusing.

Looking at some processed foods, it isn't always obvious whether it's healthy or not.

If you look at the front of the packet and see words like "veggie" and "light" and "fat free" you could get the impression that things are a lot better for you than they actually are.

To get the full story you have to look a little closer.

REPORTER: In Australia most packaged food has to have a label showing the ingredients and the nutrition information; things like how much fat and sugar is in something and how much of it you should be eating in a day.

But is it enough?

Not everyone is a health fanatic and obesity is a big problem in Australia

In fact the number of obese people has increased by half since 1995 and that's leading to all sorts of problems like diabetes and heart disease and certain types of cancer.

Many reckon we need to do something about it.

So a while ago the government and a team of health experts got together and came up with this the health star rating system.

Food makers are being asked to put a label on the front of their products giving it a rating out of five.

Five stars mean its good low in bad fats and sugars high in the healthy stuff.

Half a star means it's more of a sometimes food.

The idea is to help people make healthy choices quickly and simply and while it hasn't officially been released yet it's already brought up some interesting results.

These photos come from a government website designed to promote the health ratings.

They show a pretty big difference in the star ratings of some similar products.

The reason: Different brands were using different sorts of ingredients.

The website was quickly taken down because the government says the health star system isn't ready yet and, while many are pushing for it to go back up, some reckon the whole labelling system is a bad idea.

They say the way stars are calculated is complicated and confusing. Plus, food companies will be the ones that have to pay for changing their labels and that could get expensive

And some say they just won't work.

EWAN JONES, Politician: The government has to get out of people's lives and the reason that I spoke is because I do carry fat. It isn't just the TV cameras that make me fat. I am actually fat.

Liberal politician Ewan Jones says he knows what it's like to eat the wrong things and putting a label on food won't change the way he shops.

He reckons people should be free to make their own choices, do the research and look after themselves.

So what do you think?

Online Poll

Sounds like that'll make a good poll for this week.

The question is:

Should Australia have food star rating labels?

To vote just head to our website.

Last week we asked you if it was ever okay for a government to bailout a private business and the no side won - 61 percent to 39.

Landfill

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

INTRO: Once a piece of rubbish leaves your hand and lands in the bin most of us forget about it. But what journey does it take from there? Tash took on the assignment and came back smelling pretty bad. Take a look.

NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER: They're down your street every week, picking up the stuff you chuck out. But where does all your general waste end up?

Well, once it's taken from your bin it goes to this place, a transfer station. The idea here is to reduce the amount of rubbish that goes on to landfill.

REPORTER: Alright Simon, so what's going on here?

SIMON JENNER, TRANSPACIFIC: Basically, all the waste trucks come through here. The materials that have the recycling will get put in a pile and we've got a big yellow excavator sitting there - he'll sit through and sift through and pick up all the waste and try to get a lot of recyclables out of there and also pull out materials that are banned from landfill, so he'll pull out concrete and steel, a lot of metals, lot of cardboard, a lot of that sort of thing. The remaining waste gets loaded up gets operated on with some of the machines we have at this site, compacted and then loaded into a truck for disposal for landfill.

REPORTER: I can see there are a lot of seagulls here are they annoying or are they okay?

SIMON: We can work around the seagulls. The seagulls have been living here for many, many years, they're a bit of a pain but that's okay.

From here, the trucks travel to a landfill site. This one's about an hour out of the city.

REPORTER: Alright Simon, so we're at the landfill site now. What's going on over here?

SIMON: Okay so the trucks which have come in have ejected their waste, we now have two machines which are operating within these large net structures. We've got the bulldozer which is pushing the waste out where it needs to go and then we've got this landfill compactor. The landfill compactor's job is to drive over that waste all day everyday making sure it's nicely compacted. This net here keeps the birds from getting in and keeps the litter from getting out.

The waste here is buried about 16 metres underground. There can be up to 8 layers of rubbish stacked on top of each other with a layer of soil in between. Once an area is filled in, trees, shrubs and grass can be planted over it, so you wouldn't necessarily know it was a landfill site.

REPORTER: Now I understand there's a little bit of gas that comes out from here as well. Can you tell me a bit about of that?

SIMON: That's right. So as the waste decomposes it generates what's called landfill gas which is mainly made up of methane and carbon dioxide.

REPORTER: And I've heard of other countries using it – methane - for electricity as well. Is that the case?

SIMON: In the future we'll be getting enough gas out that we'll be able to generate electricity from it as well.

Landfill sites like this are designed to last around 50 years. After that they need to find new places for waste. So next time you chuck something out, have a think about whether it can be recycled or not. Otherwise it will end up in landfill sites like this!

Quiz 2

Let's do a quiz.

The question is:

How much household rubbish is thrown out in Australia per person per year?

Is it

210kg

690 kg

or 1,000 kg

The answer is 690kg

Only America produces more waste per person than us.

Marine Science

Reporters: Jayde and Jermaine

INTRO: Next up, Marine scientists have started a new program to encourage Indigenous kids to take on their job in the future. The aim is to unlock traditional knowledge to help new research projects and as BtN Rookie reporters Jayde and Jermaine discovered it's a pretty fun job too.

Our adventure all started here at James Cook Uni. It was pretty cool because we'd never been to uni before. We got to listen to a heap of different experts who told us what it's like to be a scientist.

Next up, we visited the Institute of Marine Science. We learned about coral. We looked at them under the microscope and saw how they live in these big aquariums.

DR. MATT KENWAY, SCIENTIST: We can see different interactions here that we can then say okay, when we're designing experiments over here, we can take some of what we've learnt here up there, so it's all learning.

Matt told us what kinds of things can damage coral.

DR. MATT KENWAY: So their whole stomach goes over the coral and they digest it there and then they suck all the nutrients in and after one day, they leave a big dead patch of coral, then they go on to the next one.

All this coral research is important because it gives scientists an idea of how climate change might affect our oceans and marine life.

Then we went to see the Research Centre on Orpheus Island. We met traditional owners of the land who told us what they know about the local marine environment.

One thing they do is tag turtles. That way they can keep track of where they're going and if they're healthy.

This wasn't something we were expecting. We were taught how to measure, tag and record information about sharks. It was good to get an idea of what scientists do out in the field.

Here we got to see all kinds of sea animals when the tide went down. Some things were hard to see, others were weird and freakish. The mangrove trees were pretty interesting too!

But probably the coolest thing we did was definitely snorkelling! Most of us had never put on a wetsuit before or snorkelled.

JOE POLLACK, ATSIMS FOUNDER: Even if you felt like you were awkward at first or weird or like felt uncomfortable, I can tell you the truth, I've seen marine biology students who look so much more uncomfortable, who freak out and panic and can't do it and you guys all did it and all took it like legends.

Everyone loved getting to go on this trip.

JERMAINE, STUDENT: My favourite part would have to be snorkelling, getting up close to the coral and all the fish.

SHANEIKA, STUDENT I think it was just standing around the touch tank and just talking about the different fishes and what they do.

DAISHA, STUDENT: I want to become a marine scientist now.

WILFRED, STUDENT: Before I came to Orpheus Island I didn't want to know about marine science, but yeah I think this has changed my mind a bit.

SIERRA BROWN, STUDENT: It makes me what to look at marine science more.

And we all have these scientists to thank for teaching us what really goes on under the water.

The Score

Right missed any of this week's sports action? We've got you covered.

It's the first year Volvo have been involved in V8 racing.

On Sunday there were plenty of bumps and crashes, like this one involving Jason Bright who walked away uninjured.

But, in the end, James Courtney survived the chaos to take the honours.

In A-League, Melbourne Heart are celebrating, after a 4-nil thrashing of Melbourne Victory.

The Heart scored their first after just 10 minutes before following up with another soon after.

Things blew out towards the end of the match with a third then a fourth delivered by sub Harry Kewell

It's the biggest win the Heart's had against their Melbourne rivals.

And in cycling, young Aussie rider Amy Cure has won her first gold medal...at the World Track Championships in Colombia.

AMY CURE, CYCLIST: I can't believe that I've finally come here and I finally got my rainbow stripes, it's taken me so long.

The 21-year old from TASSIE took out the 25-kay women's points race.

She also won a couple of bronze medals in the team and individual events.

Career Dogs

Reporter: Matt Macklin

INTRO: In the dog world, becoming a guide dog for people with a vision impairment would have to be pretty sought-after gig. But did you know there are other careers out there that puppies can aim for too? Mack found out more.

MATT MACKLIN, REPORTER: Just like you these little guys will soon have to go to school. They will do lessons like you and sit tests like you. And at the end of it all they will take on a career, just like you.

But what careers are available to a puppy? Just like humans, dogs can have different careers as well. I'm at guide dogs South Australia to find out exactly what some of them are, let's go inside and take a look.

The puppy career fair all starts during their training. Trainers keep a careful eye on the dogs to see what they're really good at and, sometimes, not so good at (because we're all good at different things).

The trainers then become guidance councillors to recommend the jobs that suit each puppy best.

Many puppies go on to be guide dogs for the blind or vision impaired.

And you probably already know a lot about what they do.

They're incredibly important. So important that they are allowed into restaurants, shopping centres, cinemas and they can even travel on trains, planes and buses to help their owners. But that's not the only option available to puppies looking for a job.

This is Elton and his trainer Natalie. They feel he's better suited for being an autism assistance dog. Autism is a condition that affects some kid's social and communication skills.

It can make it hard for them to cope with things that happen in their day. But that's where Autism dogs come in. They are connected to Autistic kids by a belt to help them get around.

They can also help keep them calm and provide friendship. But to work in this field, puppies need to show some special traits.

NATALIE CAICEDO, GUIDE DOG MOBILITY INSTRUCTOR: He is a bit more laid back, he is also very confident so when a child has a meltdown or noises, high noises he doesn't get affected by it, where some dogs could.

REPORTER: Meanwhile this is Richard, he looks after Tango who's an Ambassador dog. That means he takes Tango out to be the face of the organisation.

So why is Tango better suited to promoting guide dogs, rather than being one?

RICHARD ASTBURY, MARKETING MANAGER GUIDE DOGS SA/NT: Ok, Well they identified early on in his career that he was very social able and willing to be patted and enjoyed people's company. Which isn't really the traits we want in our working dogs.

REPORTER: But that's perfect for an ambassador dog. Because working dogs aren't allowed to interact with the public but Tango is.

And that's exactly the job my guide dog puppy, Angus, has at home.

Before he retired (yes, dogs retire too) he went out to encourage people to support this very worthwhile cause!

So that's just a few of the careers available to guide dog puppies.

But there is also a job you can take on to help these guide dogs achieve their career goals.

You can become a puppy carer!

In a few weeks these guys could be at your house.

TRACEY JONES, GENERAL MANAGER OF MOBILITY AND DOG SERVICES: We're always looking for puppy raisers. It's such a rewarding role to take a puppy into your home and into your heart for like 12-months. We just couldn't do what we do without the support of volunteers.

REPORTER: That's Tracey from Guide Dogs SA; she says it's a lot of fun to look after a puppy.

Closer

PRESENTER: And that's us finished for today.

If some of those stories got you thinking, don't keep it to yourself, share your thoughts with everyone.

Use the hashtag [behindthenews](#) or just hit our website to leave a comment the old fashioned way.

Catch you next week!