

BtN: Episode 9 Transcript 1/4/14

Coming up

- Find out what these knights are doing in modern day Australia.
- Meet the girl who risks sickness with every bite she takes.
- And Tanay tells us how she uses martial arts to fight racism.

Hello, I'm Nathan and this is BtN. You've just seen some of the great stuff coming up later. But first the news is calling. Here's what's everyone's been talking about this week.

The Wire

One of Australia's biggest private health insurers is set to be sold.

Medibank Private, which is owned by the government, is said to be worth somewhere between 2 and 4 billion dollars.

People will be able to buy shares in the business with the money raised going to the government. The government says it will use that money to fund new infrastructure. The insurer has 3-point-8 million members and 4-thousand staff.

Peter Cosgrove has become our new Governor-General!

The ex-Defence Force Chief takes over from Quentin Bryce. He's also in line to get a cool new title: Sir Peter Cosgrove. We'll tell you more about that later on!

Some high-tech equipment is going to be used to try to find the black box of a Malaysia Airlines plane in the southern Indian Ocean. The flight data recorder could tell us exactly what happened to flight MH 3-70 that went missing last month.

Meanwhile, on the weekend, an Australian military plane found several orange-coloured objects in the water.

It's not clear yet if they are from the plane or not. 239 people were on board the flight including six Aussies.

And imagine being forced to have the same haircut as the leader of your country!

Well, that's what's apparently happening in North Korea. Under a new law guys at university have to get the same hairstyle as leader Kim Jong-Un.

But hair rules aren't new there. In the past men have only been able to choose from 10 styles or a slightly more flexible 18 styles for women.

Animal Extinction

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Right I'm going to kick off our first story with a question. Should we try to save every animal facing extinction? That's the question being asked after a new UN climate report card said Australia will continue to get hotter in the future and because of that some native species might face extinction. The government spends a lot of money trying to stop native animals from dying out. But some scientists say we should ONLY put that money towards helping some of them. It's a controversial idea so here's Emma with the debate.

Imagine that the future of life on Earth was in your hands and you had the power to save species for future generations.

Now imagine you couldn't save them all.

That's the situation that some scientists say we could be facing in the near future.

The Earth's animals are in trouble. They're becoming extinct at rates not seen since the death of the dinosaurs. Since Europeans came to Australia 23 birds, 4 frogs, and 27 mammal species have become extinct.

Up in the Kakadu National Park one study says 95 per cent of the mammals that used to be there aren't there anymore. And many are worried that as the climate changes the problem will get worse because it could affect some animal's food sources or habitat making it harder for them to survive.

The government does have programs to try to save these endangered species. But it takes time, hard work and most of all money and experts says there's just not enough to go round.

So they say it's time to think about which species are the most important and just put public money into saving them.

But it's not an easy decision because animals are important for all sorts of different reasons. Some species are unique and they should be saved because there's nothing like them in the world. Others are really important to their environment. If they died out it could put a lot of other species in danger.

But before you go thinking which animals you'd save and which you wouldn't just remember sometimes, it's not the cute and cuddly ones that are the most important.

COREY BRADSHAW, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE: We want to certainly maintain all the creepy crawlies that pollinate all of our crops so that we can eat. The things like the koalas and the bilbies kind of drop off the perch, really, in terms of their direct relevance to humans.

Some environmental scientists say it may be too late to save some species anyway. They say there are just too few of them out there and spending money on them may not help.

COREY BRADSHAW, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE: We call those living dead or zombie species because the likelihood of them persisting for any reasonable amount of time in the future is pretty low. So, we've already basically resigned those species to some form of extinction within the near future.

But some disagree with that. They say we shouldn't accept the extinction of any species and the government should spend whatever money it takes to keep them around.

DEBBIE LUSTIG, SAVE THE ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT: This is something that we value as part of our natural heritage, something we want our children and our grandchildren to see in the future. We can't afford not to spend money on any of them.

LARISSA WATERS, GREENS SENATOR: I can't bear the thought that we should give up on our iconic Australian species and I can't bear the thought that we somehow throw the towel in too soon.

Either way this extinction problem isn't going away. So whatever tactic we do decide to take we'd better get moving.

Online Poll

Right that's sure to get you fired up. So get your voting fingers ready.

Should the government spend money trying to save species with little chance of survival? Our website is the place to vote.

Last week we asked you if more old growth forests should be opened up for logging. And it was a resounding no from you guys. 90 percent disagreed.

Knights and Dames

Reporter: Tash Thiele

INTRO: Prime Minister Tony Abbott has just announced he's bringing back the traditional titles 'knight' and 'dame'. So when can we expect to see people walking around wearing armour and carrying sword? Tash found out.

NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER: Okay, so you wouldn't expect to see knights like this around town. But very soon Australia will be getting Knights and Dames of its own!

Lots of movies have been made about knights like this one. Back in medieval times, knights were noble warriors who were sworn to protect the king. They would also show off their skills in tournaments and mock battles to entertain people.

These days knights aren't as exciting. They don't do any fighting and they don't dress in armour or carry swords around. But they do exist. Knighthood is an honour that the Queen gives out in the UK to recognise people for doing great things. Women can get it too, although they're called dames. It's given out in a ceremony where the Queen places a sword on the Knight or Dame's shoulders. They're also given a 'Sir' at the start of their name if they're a man or 'Dame' if they're a woman. It's one of the highest honours a person can receive.

There are a few people you've probably heard of who've previously scored the title. There's Sir Ian McKellen who plays Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings, singer Sir Paul McCartney, actresses Dame Helen Mirren and Dame Judy Dench and billionaire Sir Richard Branson. Australia used to have knights and dames too. But in 1986, the Prime Minister at the time Bob Hawke decided to ditch the tradition. Now, Tony Abbott has decided to bring knights and dames back to Australia.

TONY ABBOTT, PRIME MINISTER: I think it's important to appropriately honour people whose service has been extraordinary and pre-eminent.

Instead of the community nominating people it will be up to the PM. Then those people get approved by the Queen. Governors-General qualify automatically. That means Quentin Bryce, who's just retired, will be the first new Dame. She'll be called.

TONY ABBOTT: Dame Quentin Bryce.

And Peter Cosgrove, who'll take over her job, will become a Knight and be called Sir Peter Cosgrove. Only four knights and dames can be picked each year, so that leaves room for two more.

Some people don't have a problem with the PM's decision. But others, like those who'd like to see Australia become a republic one day, disagree. They say we shouldn't follow the British tradition. And others think it's just an old-fashioned idea.

MARK DREYFUS, SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Rushing back to the 19th century, this very backward-looking government has reintroduced knights and dames, it's something to behold.

CHRIS BOWEN, SHADOW TREASURER: Are we about to see him announce vinyl records are coming back?

Becoming a knight or dame comes with a powerful title and one we'll be hearing a lot more about!

Quiz 1

If that's not an excuse for a medieval quiz, I don't know what is!

How long did it take for a kid to be trained as a knight?

4 years

14 years

or 24 years

The answer: 14 years.

Training started at age 7 and kids had to complete 7 years as a page then another 7 years as squire before becoming a knight.

Young Leaders

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Now what do you think makes a great leader? Is it in the way they talk? The way they walk? Or is it just about what they do? This week, Matt caught up with some young leaders to find out what they think a successful leader looks like. Here's what they said.

KID 1: Nelson Mandela

KID 2: Barack Obama

KID 3: Mary Mackillop

KID 4: Julia Gillard

KID 5: Cathy Freeman

KID 6: Bill Gates

KID 7: Tony Abbott

Some of those names should ring a bell. While they're known for different things, they're all famous leaders in their own way. People who have accomplished big things, influenced others, or helped them to reach their goals.

Now some Aussie school kids are learning how they can be the great leaders of the future. They're taking part in something called National Young Leaders Day. It's an opportunity to hear from leaders in the community, ask questions and learn about leadership skills. So what is it they think makes someone a good leader?

KID: A good leader is someone who can communicate well.

Something a lot of leaders seem to have in common is how they speak, and the kind of things they say to get their message across.

MARTIN LUTHER KING: I have a dream.

JOHN F KENNEDY: Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: We will fight them on the beaches.

They have the ability to control a crowd, or connect with a single person.

KID: A good leader is someone who leads by example.

For some, leadership is about what they do; someone who only expects from others what they're prepared to do themselves.

KID: A good leader is someone who inspires others:

A person who can encourage someone to speak out, or make a difference in the world.

KIDS: A good leader is someone who...

There's no single thing that makes someone a good leader. Different people lead in different ways and they're often passionate about very different things.

In this activity, each of the kids involved pick an issue that's really important to them. They talk on camera about it, how it affects them and what ideas they have to make a difference.

Over the past few years, school kids from around Australia have had their say. And all of the responses are put online to share with the rest of the world.

Matthew's seventeen, he's come here because he wants to stop bullying.

MATTHEW: I think bullying is a big problem in our world and we need to put a stop to it. During high school I had a few instances with name calling and teasing, and it really upsets your social life and sets you back a little bit.

His idea to tackle bullying is to become a police officer.

MATTHEW: I always wondered why people didn't put a stop to the bullying. Then I realised what would people think of us? So I will join the police force and stop the bullying.

Brittany's also made a video. She wants more people to know about homelessness in Australia.

BRITTANY: I strongly believe that homelessness is a big issue in today's society. I thought if I put my idea forward, it would make other people more aware.

And while talking about these things is a simple step, it could be just the start of what's to come from these leaders of the future.

Allergies

Reporters: Peter Ah Sam

INTRO: Imagine if a simple meal could kill you. That's the reality for many kids with severe allergies. But what are the big risk foods? And how are allergies discovered? Peter went along to one girl's annual allergy appointment to find out.

PETER AH SAM, REPORTER: Imagine if what you ate could make you sick or even put your life at risk. That's the case for millions of people around the world who suffer from food allergies; and Lucy is one of them. I've joined her for her annual visit to the clinic to find out how she deals with them.

Lucy knows she can't eat nuts, but she's come to the clinic to see if her allergies are getting worse and to see if she's developed an allergy to anything new. The doctor uses something called a prick test to monitor the allergies.

Lucy gets a little sample of the things she might be allergic too on her arm. The doctor uses a pin to scratch the sample into the skin. It's enough to come up all red and itchy if she's allergic, but not enough to make her sick.

REPORTER: Does the pin prick hurt?

LUCY: It feels like a really light pin prick.

Now the test's finished, you can see where her skin's gone red. That means she has an allergic reaction.

REPORTER: So Lucy what can't you eat?

LUCY: most nuts and some allergens like pollens and like tree nuts and the stuff like that, and cats as you can see.

REPORTER: So Lucy, when you said you can't eat peanuts, that includes peanut butter and what else?

LUCY: Peanut butter, things with peanut oil in it, Nutella. Yeah - I've never had Nutella. It's really anything to do with peanuts or other nuts.

But there are other kids that have to be even more careful than Lucy like Emily here.

EMILY: I'm severely allergic to eggs and nuts and I'm also allergic to pollens and grasses.

If Emily eats the wrong food it could be fatal, so she has to be really careful.

EMILY: This year for the Year 7 camp, I got picked up at night to go back home so I could have dinner there and breakfast there, which means I wouldn't have to carry as much food with me all day, so that means I'd only have to carry my lunch because it's just way too much to carry my breakfast and my dinner with me, yeah. So I just got picked up at night and yeah.

She also has to carry an EpiPen around with her at all times. It contains stuff that slows down an allergic reaction which could save her life!

Back at the clinic, the doctor is back to let Lucy know how she did.

CHRISTINE ZIEGLER, DOCTOR: I just have your results here and what we can see straight away is that you've come up positive to peanut. So what we will do over the time is, as you get older we will get you coming back to our clinic and we will monitor what will happen with that.

Lucy knows that she'll have allergies for the rest of her life, but thanks to this place she now knows a lot more about them.

Quiz 2

Peanuts are a common food allergy. Let's find out more about them with a quiz.

Where do peanuts grow?

On the ground

Above the ground

Or under the ground?

Answer: Under the ground.

Unlike most other nuts peanuts don't grow on trees.

They're actually from the same family as beans and peas. OK, sport time!

Here's the results.

The Score

Australia is out of the Twenty Twenty World Cup. They were all but certain to be going home after losing their first two matches. But a crushing defeat against India has ended all hope. The Aussies were bowled out for just 86 a whopping 73 runs short of the total they needed. It's their second lowest twenty twenty score ever.

To basketball and the Perth Wildcats are through to the grand final series in the NBL. They defeated Wollongong two zip in the three game series.

Meanwhile, in the other semi final series Adelaide and Melbourne are tied up at 1-all.

And finally how seriously do you take your footy? Well, the AFL's making a few changes to its rules for junior footballers. It's banning scoreboards, ladders and match results for under 10s and below.

That will mean there'll be no winners or losers and no best player awards. The idea is to make footy about the fun rather than the competition.

Taekwondo

Reporter: Bec Opie

INTRO: Okay, the girl in our next story isn't someone you would want to mess with. She's the current Australian Taekwondo Champion for her age. But her aim in life isn't to beat people up. She's fighting to put an end to racism and to inspire other Indigenous kids to achieve their goals. Here's Bec.

TANAY: When you're dedicated, when you set your mind to something, you can achieve anything.

REBECCA OPIE, REPORTER: Meet Tanay Decrea. She's 13, a first degree black belt and the current Australian taekwondo champion in her division.

TANAY: I started karate when I was four and then I did taekwondo when I was seven.

REPORTER: By the age of 12, Tanay earned her black belt and since then she's been to heaps of competitions right around Australia. Last year she won gold in her age and weight category at the National Championships in Canberra. That got her a ticket to Italy to represent Australia at the ITF World Championships in Rome. But for Tanay, it's about more than just winning.

TANAY: I was the first Indigenous Australian girl to go to the World Championships, that's a big deal for me because I want to be a role model to the Aboriginal people because I am Aboriginal. So I definitely want to show those Aboriginal kids out there that you can achieve your highest goals.

REPORTER: But it hasn't always been smooth sailing. Tanay has had to overcome some obstacles to get to where she is today.

TANAY: I have been bullied, at my older school, eventually we moved schools and that just kind of drives me on because I don't want that to happen ever again to anybody.

REPORTER: For Tanay, it was taekwondo that helped get her through those times.

TANAY: Taekwondo has given me the confidence if I see racism then I will tell that person to stop because that's really mean. I will do anything to stop racism, that's very disrespectful to me.

REPORTER: There are five universal principles of taekwondo: courtesy and respect, knowing right from wrong, always trying your hardest and not giving up, keeping your cool and keeping your chin up, even when it gets tough.

TANAY: Going to taekwondo, I learn a lot of discipline. Also when I get a job I think taekwondo's taught me to work hard to achieve my goals.

REPORTER: Working hard is exactly what Tanay's been doing. In preparation for the World Championships she's up every day at 6am, training in the backyard. After school she trains at her club then it's back home for, you guessed it, more training!

TANAY: Dad is like my second coach. He drives me on all day about getting the training, getting back, he trains with me outside.

REPORTER: And it's not just Tanay's dad lending a hand.

TANAY: Mum cooks me dinner before taekwondo, she makes sure I eat healthy throughout the day. My brother is supportive, he comes along with us, doesn't complain so yeah my family is definitely cool.

REPORTER: The World Championships are only 4 months away but Tanay's on track and feeling focussed.

TANAY: My goal in Rome is to win gold, become the world champion and make my family proud and show everyone what I can do!

Closer

Thanks for that Tanay.

Right, that about wraps us up. But this isn't a one way thing. Just head to our website and you can have your say on any of our stories.

You can also let others know what you're thinking using the hashtag BehindTheNews.

Our next show will be after the Easter holidays.

See you then!

