BtN: Episode 12 Transcript 13/5/14

Coming up

- Should you need one of these to ride one of these?
- Meet the kids giving farmers a truckload of hay.
- And find out why some germs are turning into supervillians.

Hey it's Nathan here you're watching BtN.

All of those stories are just a few minutes away but first let's jump into the big news.

Surplus

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: It's budget week! This week will be all about sifting through the details of the budget working out the winner and losers. And the federal government has said there will unfortunately be quite a few losers as they look to make big savings. But why? Well they say they're after a surplus. Matt finds out what that is.

GIRL: Look at that we're still ages away from surplus.

BOY: I really thought we'd be there by now.

Getting to surplus is a real life journey Australia's been on for a few years now.

WAYNE SWAN, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Now makes it unlikely that there will be a surplus in 2013.

TONY ABBOTT, PRIME MINISTER: They never delivered surplus.

But it's been a bumpy ride. So what is a surplus, and why is it so important that we arrive at one? Well, a surplus is when you've got more of something than you need. In this case, money. So for the government, a surplus means having money left over after paying for everything in the budget. And many politicians say that's a pretty good place to be.

Australia actually used to have a surplus of cash, but during the GFC, or Global Financial Crisis, the government in charge spent it in the hope it would stimulate the country's economy and protect us.

Once the spare money was all gone, though, Australia went into deficit. That's when you have less money than you need to spend. And the only way to keep paying your bills while in deficit is to borrow it.

GIRL: Oh no, a detour. This is gonna take forever!

BOY: It says we have to go via the bank.

The problem with borrowing the cash you need is that you have to pay it back at some point, and with interest. So the more you go into debt, the longer it'll take to get to surplus.

GIRL: Why are we slowing down?

BOY: I think it's road works.

One way for the government to get there is to spend less money by making cuts in the budget. But that could mean less money goes towards roads, hospitals, education, defence or welfare. And for some, that could make life a little bumpy.

As well as cutting back, the government could bring in more money by raising taxes.

GIRL: I think we have to make a stop here, it's like a toll or something.

BOY: What?

That means some people, or businesses, would have to pay more to the government.

GIRL: I'm starting to think getting to surplus isn't even worth the effort!

And that's an argument, too. Some experts reckon cutting spending and raising taxes might do more harm than good. See, while it might seem like the best idea to save as much money as possible, making big cuts to spending could slow down the whole economy.

People might not be willing to spend as much, and if they're not spending like they usually would, people who rely on that income could lose their jobs. And then the whole country starts hurting.

Which is why some people say we should take the long road to surplus instead. So that's everything you need to know about how to get to surplus. How long it takes to get there is a much harder question to answer.

OK, There was some non-budget related news this week as well, let's catch up on it now.

The Wire

First to an update on what's been happening in Ukraine. People in eastern Ukraine have taken part in an important vote. Rebels in the area say most people voted for independence and to become closer to Russia. But Ukraine's government says everyone should ignore that because according to them the vote doesn't count anyway.

Meanwhile there's still tension and fighting between the government of Ukraine and those who support Russia.

This week more than a million Aussie schoolkids will sit the NAPLAN tests. There's four parts to the whole program, Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Language. But it's not about passing or failing. The tests are there to work out how students are going with their learning overall and whether some teaching programs need a change.

And it's known for its wacky outfits and performances. It's the Eurovision song contest and this year Austria's Conchita Wurst took out the event, wowing audiences with a ballad called Rise Like a Phoenix.

It was a big year for Australia, too, our own Jessica Mauboy became the very first Aussie act to perform in the song contest when she took to the stage in the second semi final.

About 180 million people from 45 countries tuned in to hear the final result.

Antibiotics

Reporters: Emma Davis

INTRO: The World Health Organisation has released a scary warning about superbugs. These bacteria are getting stronger every day and it says we're running out of ways to fight them. Here's Emma to explain what it all means.

Antibiotic captain: Right team, it's time to get out there and fight this bacteria!

Antibiotics: YES SIR!

Antibiotic captain: CHARGE!

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: They help get rid of the bad bacteria in your body so you can get better quickly! But the World Health Organisation's now worried we're using antibiotics too often and they say it's going to cause some big problems down the line. Here's how.

Antibiotics are designed to get rid of dodgy bacteria but sometimes, one bacterium can change a little and find itself with a defence against the antibiotics trying to stop it. Because it's now protected, the new bacterium is free to multiply and because antibiotics can't stop it, the bacterium and all of its copies can grow out of control, leaving you really sick.

Over time this fight happens again and again in lots of people's bodies and each time those people take antibiotics it gives the fighting bacteria another chance at becoming resistant to them. That's called antibiotic resistance and the World Health Organisation say antibiotic resistant super bacteria are a big concern because eventually we won't have any way to stop them.

So why can't we just come up with some new antibiotics that do work? Well they're trying but no new antibiotics have been discovered for 30 years. So while the bacteria are getting stronger, our treatments aren't!

So what can you do to slow this resistance down? Well there's a couple of things. First, only use antibiotics when your doctor prescribes them for you. They'll know when you actually need them and when it's best to let your body fight the infection on its own. Secondly, make sure you finish the full treatment. You might feel better halfway through the packet but there could still be bad bacteria lurking around inside you, so take all your medicine to finish them off properly! And finally, don't share antibiotics with other people, or take them later for different sicknesses. Antibiotics only work on bacterial infections like tonsillitis or an ear infection. They don't have any effect on viruses like some colds or the flu! Take them at the wrong time and they could make you feel even worse!

So those are the best ways you can give these awesome fighters their best chance and at the same time give us our best chance of stopping super bacteria in their tracks.

Antibiotics: Great work team, we had our work cut out for us that time!

Presenter: Good tips there.

Quiz 1

Now for a bacteria test without even needing to go to the doctor.

How far can bacteria travel when you cough?

30cm

1m

or 3m

The answer: 3m

Presenter: Yep, so cover your mouth when you cough!

Up next, should cyclists have to have a licence?

Bike Licences

Reporter: James Bartold

INTRO: The idea's been put forward recently after a couple of really bad crashes. But that'd have a big impact on kids, who rely on their bikes to get to and from school. James caught up with two of them to see how they feel about it.

JAMES BARTOLD, REPORTER: Jackson and Alex are off to school and like most days they're making the trek on their bikes.

Jackson: "It's quite fun to get on your bike, get out there"

Alex: "It wakes you up"

It sounds really nice but the road can actually be a dangerous place for a cyclist. Over the past few years more than a hundred cyclists have been injured or killed on Australian roads. No one knows exactly why but it's got a lot of people arguing about what could be done to make the roads safer.

One of them is this guy, Duncan Gay, the New South Wales Roads Minister. He reckons he might have a good solution bike licences. He says you need a licence to drive a car, and ride a motorbike, so why not a bicycle? Much like motorists bike riders would have to pass a test and pay a fee to get their licence. He thinks by doing

this it could make it easier for police to stop them doing silly things and that would help keep them safe.

Both Jackson and Alex spend a lot of time on their bikes. So what do they think about this idea? Jackson can see some definite positives. He thinks if we license cyclists we'll know they can ride.

Jackson: "They'd have to prove that they could ride on their bike, and not make silly mistakes on the road"

Reporter: And then if they do the wrong thing the police could take action.

Jackson: "Police can take licences away, and they can take silly people on bikes off the road."

Reporter: And why should only motorists pay to use the roads?

Jackson: "I guess they should have to pay, but there are some reasons against that"

Reporter: But on the other side Alex can see quite a few faults in the plan. He thinks bringing licences in might stop people riding their bikes.

Alex: "Cycling should be encouraged it's a great way to stay fit and healthy."

Reporter: He also reckons it could be bad for the environment and increase traffic.

Alex: "If we didn't have licences for bikes more people would ride so that's less pollution from the cars and less traffic jams."

Reporter: And Alex worries about the cost especially for kids

Alex: "I don't think we could be afford everybody having a licence."

Reporter: Both guys agree bike safety is a big issue. Bike lanes and helmets have made a difference. And some people have suggested other things too like reducing speed limits and installing special bike traffic lights.

But like Jackson and Alex there's a fair bit of disagreement about whether licences would help or be a step too far.

Online Poll

Okay that's both sides of the debate. Which side do you agree with?

Do you think cyclists should be licensed?

Our website is the place to vote.

Last week we polled you about our Everest story.

We asked if after watching it you would still consider climbing Everest.

We had a big response and it was pretty close to a dead heat.

More than 2200 votes cast and 52 % of them said no, they wouldn't want to climb Everest.

Thanks for taking part.

Volunteer Week

Reporters: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: This week is volunteer week when we're encouraged to pay tribute to those who give up their time for others. And we only had to look back to last week's show to find a great example. A school from the Lockyer Valley in Queensland briefly appeared in the Wire last week. But we wanted to know more about their idea to donate hay to drought affected farmers. So here's their full story.

KIDS: Let's milk it for what it's worth. And don't be a chicken. Get on board and help a farmer.

TOM: I'm Tom

GABBY: I'm Gabby

SAM: And I'm Sam.

TOM: We're from St Mary's Laidley

GABBY: In Year 6 and 7 class

SAM: And we're here to tell you about Rural Connect

We live in Queensland, in the Lockyer Valley. And at the moment, a lot of farmers are struggling with drought. But without water, our farmers can't grow crops, or look after their animals. So we decided to do something to help.

SAM: It started when we were just thinking about helping people in our local community. But then we heard the story of the farmers and we decided to help them, because in 2013 we were really badly affected by the flood.

We came up with the idea to raise money to buy bales of hay and other stuff farmers really need. We called it Rural Connect.

BOYS: So we approached people from around the local area to help us with rural connect and some farmers are working for free. We had local farmers actually helping because they know what they're going through.

And pretty soon, other schools wanted to help, too.

BOYS: They've been inspired by our project, they wanted to get in and help all the farmers with drought.

In the first twenty four hours, we raised ten thousand dollars, which helped buy all this.

GIRLS: And we've unloaded lots of hay, and we've put lots of lick blocks and dog food on a trailer, and we're just waiting for the farmers. It's not just the farmers that are struggling, it's their families and they don't have enough money to get shampoo and toiletries and all that stuff.

But while the donations have been really amazing so far, we want more Australians to get involved.

CLASS: Hey everybody, how important is Rural Connect? This important!

Another reason it's so important is because farmers have done a lot for us in the past. When our school was flooded, they were fantastic.

BOY 1: We know what it's like to be through rough times and we just like to pay people back for what they've done to help us.

BOY 2: I like being in Rural Connect because we want to help the farmers. And without the farmers, we have no produce, food or stuff like that. It's good to help farmers and pay back from the floods.

We also want people to think about where their food comes from, and why farmers are important to Australia. For us, making videos and raising money, is our way of doing that.

And it'll hopefully help our community make it through this tough time.

Presenter: Thanks for that story guys. Now let's find out more about Australia's volunteers.

Quiz 2

Which gender volunteers the most in Australia?

Men

Women

Or neither, it's equal.

The answer: Women

About 38% of women volunteer although men aren't far behind at 34%

Next up, sport!

The Score

Here's a quick roundup of what you need to know.

Manchester City are this year's English Premier League Champions. The Sky Blues needed a win to seal the title and they got it in style beating West Ham 2-nil. It's the second time in three seasons they've been crowned English champions.

Aussie driver Daniel Riccardo has finished third in the Spanish Grand Prix. It was the young Aussies' first podium finish of his Formula One career. He finished behind Mercedes Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg.

To the AFL and West Coast's Josh Kennedy has kicked an amazing 11 goals in a game. The massive goal haul helped his side beat Greater Western Sydney by 111 points.

The Australian Commonwealth Games Netball squad has been named. And the side includes 7 players who will compete in their first games. Laura Geitz will captain.

And finally more than a hundred thousand people have hit the streets across Australia for the Mother's Day Classic fun run. The 8 k run or 4 k walk helps raise money for breast cancer research. And plenty of kids took part with who else, but their mum.

Robot Girls

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Robots, we all wish we had one to do things for us and to play with. Well the girls in our next story are learning how to make one for themselves. And even better they're doing it as part of their classes at school. Emma's a robot fan so she went to check it out.

REPORTER, EMMA DAVIS: Here on BtN, we love a good robot story. From thirsty robots, to robots that look eerily lifelike! Robots that could star in movies and even animal robots that make people feel better. So when we heard some kids were making robots as part of their school studies we just had to check it out!

These girls are all engineers in training and these are their creations! They've been making their robots for a while now and as you can see, they do some pretty cool things.

CHLOE: "If it detects the white light, it will shift this way so it will stay on the black line, but if it detects black, it will shift that way so it still keeps on the line and it moves with a sideways movement."

REPORTER: Robots are a pretty fun subject, so you'd think this would be a pretty popular class to be in. But where are all the boys? Well they're not allowed! This is a girls-only class. In fact it's even called Robo Gals! But it's not because they don't like boys, of course! The whole thing is designed to get girls involved in science and maths so they'll be more likely to go on to study them after high school.

Overall, women outnumber men at Aussie universities. But when it comes to courses like engineering or I-T, men outnumber women easily, and that's something Robogals is trying to change! The program started in Melbourne back in 2008. And now it's spread all over the world.

To start with, everyone gets their own kit and they have to put it all together!

CHLOE: "I built the ultrasonic sensor and the light sensor. It took me about a session and a half which is about 150 minutes to complete it."

REPORTER: Then they have to program their robot to do what they want.

KAITLIN: "It's just starting off with the turning, backwards, forwards, you want to keep it at a basic speed."

REPORTER: So you put all the special details into the computer, download it onto the robot, and give it a go!

REPORTER AND KAITLIN: "Ok so we programmed it on the computer, and now it's time to test it out! And fingers crossed it all goes ok. Yeah. And that's it!"

REPORTER: And while all this looks like good fun, there is some serious science and maths knowledge needed to make it happen. For example, the robots have to be able to judge how far away objects are and react the right way. Because they don't want their robots to end up in a crash! That uses a bit of science and a bit of maths. Then, when they're programming the robots, they have to calculate the speed and power of each movement. That uses a bit of science and maths too!

REPORTER: This course has given these girls a look at how fun both subjects can be! So hopefully one day we'll see some of them step up to robots more like this.

Closer

And that bring us to the end of another show!

Please remember to get onto our website straight after this so you can discuss the stories you've just seen. And while you're there have your say on this week's poll. Teachers, we haven't forgotten you either there's a special section just for you with heaps of resources in it. Check them out and we'll be back next week. See you then!