

BtN: Episode 17 Transcript 17/6/14

Coming up:

- In the lead-up to World Refugee Day, we find out what it's like to be a kid in one of the largest refugee camps in the world.
- We find out if 5 cent coins could be on the way out.
- And with the soccer World Cup now in full swing we take a closer look at host country Brazil.

Hey I'm Nathan and you're watching BtN. First today.

Dead Letters

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: When was the last time you got a letter through the post? For most of us it's probably been quite a while. And that's a problem for Australia Post. Not enough people are sending letters which means they're not making as much money. 900 jobs are being cut and there could even be changes to the postal service in the future. Here's Emma.

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: Back when your parents were kids, one of the best parts of the day was when the postie arrived! Letters were really important. They used to be one of the only ways to communicate with someone who lived far away, especially during times of war. But lately there's been a lot less going into people's letterboxes and some reckon this is to blame.

The internet's just made everything so much easier. Now we can write to people through things like email, facebook and twitter. It's way faster than sending a letter and it's much cheaper too. Businesses have also got on board. Instead of sending your bills in the post, many companies are happy to use email now instead. In fact, last year in Australia, one billion fewer letters were delivered than back in 2008. But why does it matter if people aren't sending letters anymore?

Well it's a big problem for these guys at Australia Post. They're responsible for delivering the mail to your home. And the letter side of the business is starting to struggle as fewer people use it. But fixing the problem isn't easy. That's because Australia Post is owned by the government and it's required by law to provide the following services to every Australian: It has to deliver letters 5 days a week to 98% of the population; keep 4000 post stores open around the country; pick up letters from

at least 10,000 street letterboxes and on top of all of this, it has to charge one small amount per letter for all that effort, currently 70 cents.

Recently the CEO announced Australia Post was going to cut about 900 jobs to save money. He's also announced that he'd like to start delivering mail to people less often, maybe one or two times a week, unless they paid extra. But they can't do that unless the government gives them the OK. So the problem of the disappearing letters is only going to get harder for our national post service in the future.

But that's not the end of the story because while letters are dying, one part of Australia Post is faring much better. About 50 per cent of Aussies buy stuff online these days and the only way to get those products from the shop to you is by the post! So while the internet might be to blame for putting letters on the scrap heap, it's good to know it's also helping posties to continue delivering the goods. Just now in parcel form.

Presenter: Tell us what you think about that story on our website. Or you could always write us a letter! Now for this week's news headlines.

The Wire

Things are pretty serious in Iraq at the moment. An extremist group called ISIS reckons they should be in charge. And they've taken over parts of the country. Iraq's government is fighting back. And hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes to escape the fighting.

ISIS is heading towards Iraq's capital, Baghdad taking control of areas as they go along. Outside of Iraq many world leaders are worried.

"Iraq's gonna need more help. It's going to need more help from us and it's going to need more help from the international community."

Our P-M, Tony Abbott. Has just got back from the U-S where he met with President Barack Obama. One of the things they talked about was the situation in Iraq. But they've also set up a new defence deal which means we'll be seeing more US troops down under.

"I want to assure the president that Australia will be an utterly dependable ally of the US."

And this is Harrison. He's 12 and was born with a rare spinal problem. He's spent most of his life in a wheelchair. Doctors didn't think he'd ever walk. But on Sunday, he took part in a fun run for charity.

He raised 8 thousand dollars. And he finished the race by walking across the finish line! Amazing work Harrison!

Refugee Camp

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Three years ago, Zaa-tri Refugee Camp was just an empty desert. Now it's a huge city of tents. More than 100,000 people live there. And half of them are kids. For World Refugee Day Emma takes us inside to meet one of the families.

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: The Hariri family might look like they live a pretty normal life. They cook and eat dinner together, go shopping and even watch a bit of TV! But their life is very different because of where they live. Just over two years ago, they were an ordinary family living in Syria. But when war broke out around the country the Hariri's needed to go somewhere safer. They left their home behind and came here, to Zaatari.

Zaatari Refugee Camp is right on the border of Syria and Jordan. This is what it looked like three years ago, but now it's become a massive city, home to more than 100 thousand people! And half of them are kids! That's more than 50,000 kids, living here in the middle of the desert.

While it looks pretty permanent, the Jordanian government says this camp is only temporary and when the fighting in Syria is over everyone is meant to go back home. But that's taking a lot longer than everyone thought!

DINA HARIRI: "Before we left we said we will stay ten days, or fifteen, twenty, maybe one month at the most. At most a month. We didn't expect a long stay here."

The Hariri family started off living in a tent like this. But Dina's dad worked really hard to build them a home.

DINA HARIRI: "I notice my mum and dad would do anything to make us happy. Even for example, the food, if there wasn't enough, they won't eat so we aren't the ones to go hungry."

That's why people argue over the food and water that is delivered. Some argue over who gets to use the best buildings too, but the Hariri family say the most important thing is that everyone gets access to education.

Dina heads off to class each day while her mum works as a teacher. The classes have a lot of kids and they don't have many pens or pencils to use. But that doesn't bother Dina's mum. She wants to help out these kids in any way she can.

In the camp, celebrations still happen as normal. This family is getting ready for a wedding! Lots of people have come to have a good time.

For the Hariri's, this camp is nothing like the life they left behind, but for now it's all they have. So they are determined to make the most of it and work towards a better future.

Presenter: Okay so that was *Zaa-tri* the fourth biggest refugee camp in the world. The biggest one is in Kenya. Let's find out more about it now.

Quiz 1

How many people live in the world's largest refugee camp, Dadaab in Kenya?

Is it 150,000

350,000

650,000

The answer: 350,000

That puts it just under the population of Canberra here in Australia.

5 Cent changes

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Speaking of Canberra that's where the Australian mint is the place that makes all our notes and coins. But recently it said it was thinking about ditching one of them the 5 cent coin because they actually cost 6 cents to make. Matt found out more.

SHOP ATTENDANT: That'll be \$6.50.

MATT HOLBROOK, REPORTER: If everyone did this all the time, buying anything would be the worst.

REPORTER: Actually, I'll have that and that as well. Luckily we don't have to lug around bags and bags of money. We've got coins and notes in much more practical amounts.

SHOP ATTENDANT: That'll be \$6.50.

REPORTER: Thanks!

And often we don't even have to use cash if we don't want to. But if there are all these convenient ways to buy stuff, why do we need a five cent coin? The five cent coin first arrived on the scene in 1966. That's when Australia made the switch to dollars and cents. Before that, Aussie money was based on British money, with pence, shillings, and pounds. Today, these are all of Australia's coins from five cents to two dollars. But we used to have a couple more, too. The one cent and two cent coin.

In 1992, they were phased out because they were expensive to make, and there wasn't much you could get for your money. Fast forward to today, and that's the same problem the five cent coin is now facing.

REPORTER: What can I get with just one of these?

SHOP ATTENDANT: Nothing.

REPORTER: Oh.

While a five cent coin won't get you very far now, they were a bit more practical in the past. The problem is that over time, everything has become more expensive.

REPORTER: So what once got you a bag of lollies, now only gets you a lone, single, snake. Sorry snake.

All of our coins come from the Royal Australian Mint in Canberra. The mint can make up to two million coins a day. But recently, they announced that five cent coins actually cost about six cents to make! That led some people to question why we bother with them, considering we spend more money making them than they're actually worth. After all, sometimes 5 cent coins aren't much help, even for things that demand loose change. So why not just get rid of them?

Well, there's an argument that charities could miss out on donations from people giving away their loose change. And if there's no such thing as five cents change, shops might put their prices up to compensate. Meaning something that's \$1.65 might jump up to \$1.70.

For now, no decision's been made about the five cent coin, but there's a fair chance that eventually we'll have to say goodbye to this little shiny icon.

Online Poll

So 5 cents, in or out?

That's our poll this week.

Should we get rid of the 5 cent coin?

Our website is the place to vote.

Last week we ran a story about Google being forced to delete search results that people aren't happy with. It's only happening in Europe so we asked you if the same deal should be brought here. And most of you thought it should be.

Brazil Profile

Reporter: James Bartold

INTRO: Okay, So it's pretty hard to miss the fact that the 2014 Soccer World Cup has kicked off over in Brazil. Billions of people will tune in to watch it over the next month or so. But what is this country like away from the pitch? We thought we'd give you a look. Here's James.

REPORTER, James Bartold: It's the event people across the world are tuning in for. The chance to see the world's best players battling it out for their countries. The 2014 soccer world cup is now underway. Right here in soccer obsessed, soccer mad, Brazil. You would think people here would be pretty excited right? Well not everyone.

So why are the people of Brazil protesting against an event that features their favourite sport? Well to find out we need to learn a bit more about this country. Brazil is just over here on the east coast of South America. It's a country full of culture and beauty. More than 200 million people call it home that's 10 times Australia. Most people speak Portuguese and when it comes to money, Brazil's is called the Real. Recently Brazil has seen a lot more Real coming in. They're the world's largest producers of coffee, oranges, and sugar cane. But that's not all they've also got lots of precious minerals, including lots and lots of iron ore. These mining exports have helped turn Brazil into a booming world economy. But while some have got rich, others still have very little. Millions of Brazilians live below the poverty line in slums like this. They call them 'Favelas', and its estimated more than 11 million people live in them. They don't have enough money to feed their families, not enough to make sure their kids get an education and not enough to give them proper shelter. So when the government started spending heaps of the country's money on the world cup.

A lot of Brazilians weren't happy. They thought it should really be spent helping people. The World Cup has cost Brazil around 11 billion dollars. Protestors say that

money should have been spent on things like schools, health and other public services that could help fix the country's big problems. But others say the World Cup is also very important for Brazil. During the last World Cup in South Africa - around 3 billion people tuned in during the tournament, from 214 different countries and more than 3 million people rocked up to watch it live. Similar numbers are expected for this tournament and that could mean a lot of money for Brazil. At the moment all eyes are on the pitch and if Brazil win it will be celebrated in style. But when it's all over the World Cup will pack up and move onto another country and the people of Brazil, and the problems they face, will still be here.

Presenter: Okay we said Brazilians love their football. But do you know how much success their national team has had when it counts?

Quiz 2

How many times has Brazil won the World Cup?

Is it Once

3 times

or 5 times

The answer: 5 times

That's more than any other country.

Okay before we see what happened in the soccer World Cup. Let's find out about the World Cup that really matters, the one Australia has just won.

The Score

The Australian men's hockey team have won the World Cup! The Kookaburras were the defending champs and took care of things again thrashing the Netherlands 6 goals to 1.

The news wasn't so good for our women's side. The Hockeyroos had to settle for silver in their World Cup final with the Netherlands turning the tables!

To the soccer world cup and Australia hasn't had the start it would've liked. The Socceroos fought hard in their first match but were outclassed by Chile 3-1. In the other matches, there were some amazing goals. And some big upsets.

The Aussies will now play the Netherlands on Thursday!

Australia has wrapped up its Rugby series against France with a 6-0 victory in the second test. It wasn't easy going for the Aussies though with neither team scoring a try for the whole match!

San Antonio are the NBA champions. The Spurs beat Miami in Game 5 to wrap up the series 4 games to 1. Aussie Patty Mills starred for the Spurs scoring 17 points.

And finally some of the country's fastest crabs have battled it out in the Derby Crab Races in Western Australia. The rules are simple first crab to touch the outside of the racing ring wins. And that's this nippy little guy!

Reality TV

Reporter: James Bartold

INTRO: Finally, Reality TV has become one of the most popular things on our TV screens each night. Whether it's singing, cooking, renovating or modelling we seem to love tuning in to see the highs and lows of our favourite contestants. But is reality TV really that close to reality? James found out.

REPORTER, James Bartold: In real life we see shows like this all the time. People willing to put their private lives on show for their 15 minutes of fame and the chance to win a big prize. Reality shows seem to be all about real people, in real situations, competing for real prizes. But when you dig a little deeper the reality can start to blur.

Firstly we all know reality is not nearly as dramatic as reality TV makes it seem. Leaving people to act normally wouldn't create the most interesting telly. Excitement and plenty of conflict is what gets people watching. So a range of different people are picked as contestants to help provide it. From people we'll fall in love with.

CONTESTANT: I just want to make lots of friends and have a good time.

To those we'll hate.

CONTESTANT: "I'm a ledge, I'm defo going to be the next presenter I'm so much better than the others"

They're then forced together under one roof with no visitors, no news, no Internet, and very few phone calls. They're also kept so busy that they're soon exhausted.

It's no surprise people often get angry or make big mistakes. Sometimes fireworks don't happen by themselves, but with a bit of clever editing pretty much any storyline can be created.

All of these tricks help create lots of tension and conflict, which makes the shows entertaining to watch. But for the real reality TV contestants, like Jules from the last season Masterchef it was hard to deal with.

JULES ALLEN, Masterchef Contestant: I think largely it's very much that you are so vulnerable in front of an entire nation and that's the basis upon which reality TV functions.

The problem with reality TV is that contestants still have to live with their reality TV reputation afterwards, which is fine if you're the star but pretty tough if you're made to look like the villain.

JULES ALLEN: I didn't fare too badly, but, you know, one comment, one nasty comment, I think kept me awake half a night.

Jules isn't alone. Earlier this year a guy off the Block said he'd been edited to look slow and stupid. And he along with many other reality TV contestants have received a lot of hate on social media because of how they were shown. Not everyone is unhappy with their reality TV experience though. It's helped lots of contestants get new glamorous careers and make lots of money.

So while reality TV isn't always very realistic it can be life changing. But whether it's for the better or worst often depends on the outcome.

BTN Presenter: And the winner of Australia's next BTN presenter is revealed after the break.

Closer

Right that nearly wraps us up!

But before we go I need to quickly tell you that you have to go to our website leave a comment or two in our guestbook then vote in our 5 cent poll.

Also, classes can contact any of the team anytime using the hashtag BehindTheNews. Talk to you then!

And until next week, have a good one!