

## Questions for discussion

Episode 30  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

### Whitlam Legacy

1. In which year was Gough Whitlam elected Prime Minister?
2. How many years was he PM?
3. What changes did he make to health care and education?
4. What important decision did he make regarding Aboriginal land rights?
5. Gough Whitlam brought an end to conscription. What does that mean?
6. Name at least three other changes that he made.
7. Gough Whitlam was not popular with everyone. Why?
8. Who sacked Gough in 1975?
9. What do you think he will be remembered for? Explain your answer.
10. What do you think makes a good Prime Minister? Share your ideas with another student.

Check out the BtN *Whitlam Legacy* resource on the Teachers page

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/teachers.htm>

Do the quiz on the BtN website <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/quiz.htm>

### Rabbit Restrictions

1. Discuss the issues raised in the BtN *Rabbit Restrictions* story.
2. Why are pet rabbits banned in Queensland?
3. What are the penalties if you are found to have a pet rabbit?
4. Why were rabbits introduced by European settlers?
5. What damage can they do?
6. Within two years, 2 rabbits can become \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What methods have been used in the past to get rid of rabbits?
8. How would microchipping and desexing rabbits help?
9. Do you think pet rabbits should be allowed in Queensland? Why or why not?
10. How has your thinking changed since watching the BtN story?

Vote in the BtN poll. Go to <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/polls.htm>

### Fire Fighting Volunteers

1. Briefly summarise the BtN story.
2. What does CFS stand for?
3. Describe the work that the CFS does.
4. How old do the cadets have to be before they can fight fires?
5. What is another word for 'drill'?

6. What does the drill prepare the cadets for?
7. Why are CFS volunteers important?
8. Why do the cadets like volunteering for the CFS?
9. What do you think are the advantages of being a CFS volunteer?
10. How does volunteering benefit; the volunteer, the organisation and the community?

Write a message about the story and post it in the comments section on the story page.

### Backyard Bird Count

1. Describe the Backyard Bird Count.
2. How are the students recording their findings?
3. How long did they look for birds?
  - a. 10 minutes
  - b. 20 minutes
  - c. 60 minutes
4. Why is it important to know about native birds?
5. The survey is a citizen \_\_\_\_\_ project.
6. About how many of Australia's bird species are under threat?
7. What can cause a species to die out?
8. What are the kids in the BtN story doing to help look after native birds in their area?
9. Name something you could do to help native birds in your area.
10. What was surprising about this story?

Check out the BtN *Backyard Bird Count* resource on the Teachers page  
<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/teachers.htm>

### Gaming FX

1. In your own words, describe what the kids in the Gaming FX story are doing.
2. What is your favourite video game? Why?
3. What sort of game are the kids creating?
4. Briefly explain how the kids created their games.
5. A green screen is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
6. How does it work?
7. Which animation technique are they using?
8. Give an example of a film that uses the technique.
9. Illustrate an aspect of the *Gaming FX* story.
10. Create your own video game character.

Check out Nathan's explanation of how a green screen works  
<http://abc.net.au/btn/video/rookies/jargon-greenscreen.mp4>

Activity

Episode 30  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

# Whitlam Legacy

## Key Learning

Students will learn about the achievements of the Whitlam Government. Students will describe the role of the Governor-General.

## The Australian Curriculum

### English / Literature / Literature and context

Identify and explore ideas and viewpoints about events, issues and characters represented in texts drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts ([ACELT1619](#)) Year 7



### History / Historical Skills / Chronology, terms and concepts

Sequence historical people and events. ([ACHHS117](#)) ([ACHHS098](#)) ([ACHHS081](#)) Years 4, 5, 6



### Historical Knowledge and Understanding / Australia as a nation

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women, and children ([ACHHK114](#)) Year 6



### Civics and Citizenship / Civics and Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding / Government and democracy

The key features of government under the Australian Constitution with a focus on: the separation of powers, the roles of the Houses of Parliament, and the division of powers ([ACHCK048](#)) Year 7



## Discussion Questions

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2. How many years was he PM?
3. What changes did he make to health care and education?
4. What important decision did he make regarding Aboriginal land rights?
5. Gough Whitlam brought an end to conscription. What does that mean?
6. Name at least three other changes that he made.
7. Gough Whitlam was not popular with everyone. Why?
8. Who sacked Gough in 1975?
9. What do you think he will be remembered for? Explain your answer.
10. What do you think makes a good Prime Minister? Share your ideas with another student.

## Activities

### Keywords

Watch the BtN *Whitlam Legacy* story and summarise the story in your own words. Watch the story again and listen carefully. Circle each of the following words/terms as you hear them. Record any unfamiliar words.

Campaign	Economy	Election
Governor-General	Senate	Higher Education
Conscription	Land Rights	Controversy

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word or term (including unfamiliar words). Swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Discuss as a group how these terms relate to this story.

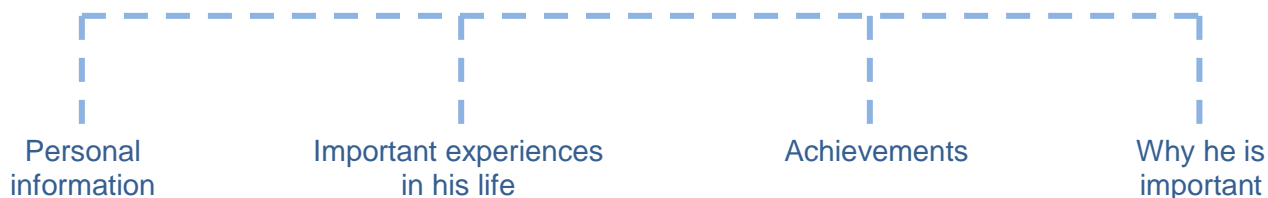
## Biography

Students brainstorm a list of questions about Gough Whitlam. The graphic organiser below will help them to structure the biography. Some possible questions include:

- Where and when was Gough Whitlam born?
- When and for how long did Gough Whitlam serve as Prime Minister?
- While Gough Whitlam was Prime Minister he made changes to Australia's Aboriginal land rights, higher education and health care. Explain what these changes involved. What are some other significant changes that he made while he was Prime Minister?
- How has he made an impact on others' lives?
- Gough Whitlam was an influential yet controversial leader. What does this mean?

Discuss with students ways to publish their work. Some possibilities include; an oral presentation, poster, short film or PowerPoint presentation. Students could create a Gough Whitlam biography gallery in their classroom.

### Biography organiser Prime Minister – Gough Whitlam



## Australia's Governor-General

In this activity students will investigate the role of Australia's Governor-General. Below are some research questions:

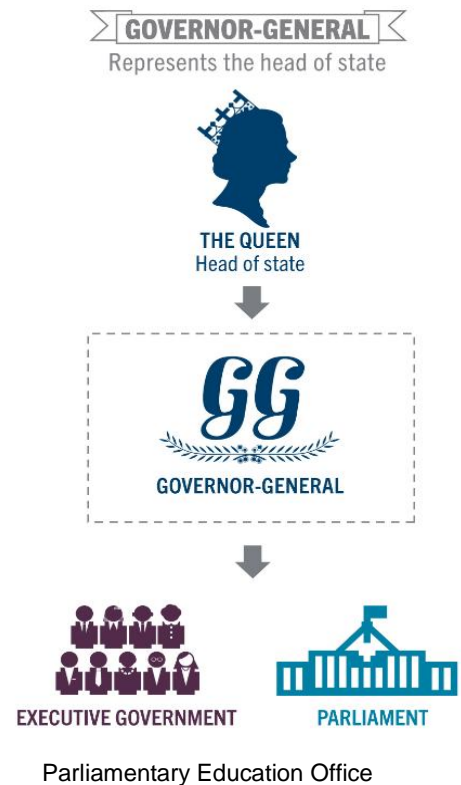
- What is the highest position of political authority in Australia?
- What is the role of the Governor-General?
- Who is our current Governor-General?
- What is the relationship between the Prime Minister and Governor-General?
- Why was it so controversial for the Governor-General to sack Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister in 1975?

Create a fact sheet about the role of the Governor-General.

Related weblinks

<http://www.peo.gov.au/teaching/parliamentary-lesson-plans/the-constitution-the-head-of-state.html>

<http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/fact-sheets/governor-general.html>



## The dismissal of the Whitlam Government

Below is an excerpt taken from the BtN *Whitlam Legacy* transcript. Ask students to fill in the gaps. The missing words are economy, laws, Senate and election.

*“Gough Whitlam wasn't popular with everyone. The country's \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't doing too well because he'd spend a lot of money on all of these changes. The government didn't have all the support it needed to get all of its \_\_\_\_\_ through parliament. That's because the \_\_\_\_\_ blocked the money the government needed to run the country. Gough didn't want to call an \_\_\_\_\_.”*

In 1975 the Governor-General used his special powers to sack Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister. The dismissal of the Whitlam Government is considered as one of the most significant political events in Australia's history.

As a class hold a discussion about the dismissal of the Whitlam Government. Do you think it was fair that Gough Whitlam was sacked as Prime Minister? Why or why not?

## Political campaigning

After watching the BtN *Whitlam Legacy* story, facilitate a classroom discussion about political campaigning, in particular Gough Whitlam's 'It's Time' slogan. Find out what your students already know about political campaigning. Below are some discussion starters:

- What is the purpose of a political campaign?
- What different techniques can be used to make a successful political campaign? Consider slogans, theme songs, posters and advertisements.

### Political slogans – *It's Time*

Watch Gough Whitlam's '*It's Time*' song as a class.

<http://aso.gov.au/titles/ads/alp-its-time/clip1/>

'*It's Time*' was one of the most famous political slogans in Australian political history. What do you think was meant by this slogan? Can you think of any other political slogans? What makes a good slogan?



Below is a list of some more recent Australian political slogans:

- Let's Move Australia Forward (Julia Gillard, Australian Labor Party)
- Choose a stronger Australia. Choose a better future (Tony Abbott, Liberal Party)
- Kevin07 (Kevin Rudd, Australian Labor Party)
- For all of us. (John Howard, Liberal Party)

### Create your own campaign

Divide students into groups and ask them to imagine that they are designing their own political slogan.

- What is your message?
- Who is your target audience? Consider age and demographic.
- Create a poster as part of your campaign. Include your slogan and images and words that highlight your message to the Australian public.
- Write and present a campaign speech of 2 to 5 minutes.

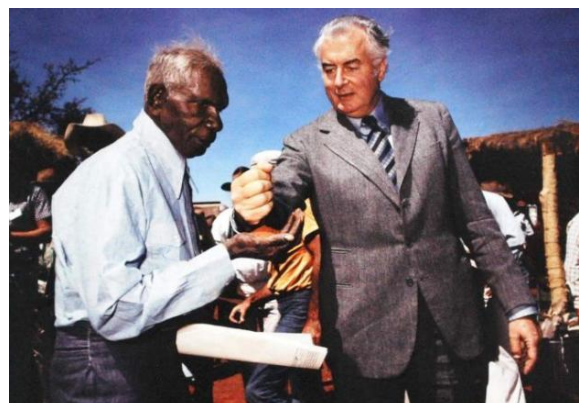
Related weblink

<http://www.abc.net.au/civics/democracy/campaign.htm>

## Aboriginal land rights

Aboriginal land rights was an issue that Gough Whitlam tackled while he was Prime Minister.

On August 16, 1975, Gough Whitlam returned traditional lands in the Northern Territory to the Gurindji people. This brought an end to their long struggle to reclaim their traditional country. The ceremony to officially hand back the land to the Gurindji people took place on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1975 at Daguragu. Whitlam made a short speech before taking some sand and pouring it into the hands of Vincent Lingiari, the leader of the protest movement.



Show students the above image and hold a class discussion.

- What's happening in this photo?
- Why is this photograph symbolic? Consider that it is a reminder that all Australians share the same land and the same hopes.
- How does this image make you feel? Describe your emotions.

For more information on Aboriginal land rights visit BtN's *Mabo Day* and *Land Rights* stories.

Land Rights – <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4014894.htm>

Mabo Day – <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3765672.htm>

#### Related Research Links

ABC News – Obituary: Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam dead at 98

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-10/gough-whitlam/3945026>

National Museum of Australia – Prime Ministers: Gough Whitlam

[http://www.nma.gov.au/primeministers/gough\\_whitlam](http://www.nma.gov.au/primeministers/gough_whitlam)

Civics and Citizenship – Gough Whitlam

[http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/whitlam\\_gough.14909.html](http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/whitlam_gough.14909.html)

Australian Screen – ALP: It's Time (video)

<http://aso.gov.au/titles/ads/alp-its-time/clip1/>

Parliamentary Education Office – Constitutional Crisis

<http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/closer-look/the-australian-constitution/constitutional-crisis.html>

# Backyard Bird Count

Episode 30  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## Key Learning

Students will plan and conduct an investigation on birds native to their area. Students will observe, classify, record, analyse and draw conclusions from their science investigation.

## The Australian Curriculum

*Science / Science Understanding / Biological sciences*

Interactions between organisms can be described in terms of food chains and food webs; human activity can affect these interactions. ([ACSSU112](#)) Year 7



*Science / Science Inquiry Skills / Planning and conducting*

Collaboratively and individually plan and conduct a range of investigation types, including fieldwork and experiments, ensuring safety and ethical guidelines are followed. ([AC SIS125](#)) Year 7



## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the Backyard Bird Count.
2. How are the students recording their findings?
3. How long did they look for birds?
  - a. 10 minutes
  - b. 20 minutes
  - c. 60 minutes
4. Why is it important to know about native birds?
5. The survey is a citizen \_\_\_\_\_ project.
6. About how many of Australia's bird species are under threat?
7. What can cause a species to die out?
8. What are the kids in the BtN story doing to help look after native birds in their area?
9. Name something you could do to help native birds in your area.
10. What was surprising about this story?

## Activities

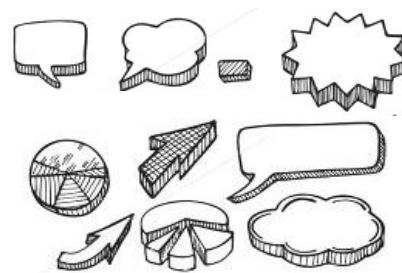
### Classroom discussion

Ask students to make some predictions about what the BtN *Backyard Bird Count* story might be about before they watch the story. They can compare their predictions after viewing the story.



After watching the story, encourage students to participate in a class discussion.

- Why is this project important?
- Name some Australian native birds. Make a classroom list.
- What does the term citizen science mean?
- What do you want to learn about this topic?



## Glossary

Download the full transcript from the *Backyard Bird Count* BtN story page. Highlight all the words that relate to conservation and biology in general. Circle any unfamiliar words. Create your own classroom glossary of words with explanations.

Below is a list of words to start your classroom glossary. Students can refer to the classroom glossary throughout their research.

Conservation	Biology	Endangered
Native	Species	Preservation
Diversity	Threatened	Habitat

## Investigation

Introduce the concept of native animals to the class. For example, why they are special, why some might be threatened (e.g. climate change, pests and diseases, pollution and habitat destruction) and what these animals rely on for their existence.

Students will then conduct their own research either individually or in groups. To further students' investigation plan an excursion to your local botanic gardens or wildlife park to explore native birds in your area. Below are some questions for students to investigate:

- What is the difference between a native and an introduced animal?
- Can you name any native Australian birds?
- Are there any birds that are native to your area? For example, the black cockatoo is unique to south-west Australia.
- What things are threatening our native birds?
- Habitat loss is one of the main factors that can lead to a species being threatened with extinction. List how a bird's habitat might be destroyed or disturbed.
- Can you think of some ways in which we can help prevent loss of habitat for Australian native animals?
- What changes can we make to our behaviour and to our homes/schools to keep native birds safe?

## Research project

Students will conduct research into a native Australian bird. Display the student's research and drawings around the classroom or make a book for the class library.

- What are its special features?
- What do they eat?
- What is its habitat (where does it live)? Describe and illustrate.
- How do they survive in their environment?
- Is this bird threatened or endangered? If so, what are its threats?
- What is your favourite thing about this bird?
- What surprised you about your research?

Research project – Native Australian Bird			
<b>Scientific and common name</b>			
<b>Appearance/anatomy</b> <i>Shape, size, colour, special features</i>			
<b>Habitat</b> <i>Where does it live in Australia? Why?</i>			
<b>Life Cycle</b> <i>Describe the stages of the life cycle.</i>			
<b>Photograph, illustration and/or labelled diagram</b>	<table border="1"><tr><td><i>Insert photo here</i></td><td><i>Insert diagram here</i></td></tr></table>	<i>Insert photo here</i>	<i>Insert diagram here</i>
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## Assessing habitat for birds

What are the links between birds and their habitat? Why are gardens important for birds?

- Carry out an assessment of your schools habitat and investigate what lives where.
- Create a habitat garden at your school. Students research the habitat requirements of a native bird and design a school garden to increase the amount of habitat available to this species in your area.

Contact your local council for tips and hints on what works



in your area. Watch this video to get some useful tips for designing a bird friendly garden  
<http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/where-to-watch-birds/>

## Further activity

In this activity students will pretend they are birds. They will search for grass, twigs and leaves and also man-made materials like wool, lint, fake spiders web and string that they can use to build their nest.

Use these teachers' notes to guide your students when making their nests.

[http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/sites/www.birdsinbackyards.net/files/page/attachments/Building%20a%20nest\\_teacher.pdf](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/sites/www.birdsinbackyards.net/files/page/attachments/Building%20a%20nest_teacher.pdf)

## Related Research Links

Backyard Bird Count – Official website

<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=backyard%20bird%20count>

Birdlife Australia – Find a Bird

<http://birdlife.org.au/all-about-birds/australias-birds/find-a-bird>

Birds in Backyards – Bird Finder

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/finder>

Australian Museum – Birds in Backyards: top 30 urban birds

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Birds-in-Backyards-top-30-urban-birds>

# BtN: Episode 30 Transcript 28/10/14

Coming up.

- Kids training to tackle bushfires. We find out how you can get involved.
- Discover which Australian state has a ban on pet rabbits. And more importantly, why?
- And meet the kids starring in their own video game.

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

## Whitlam Legacy

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

*INTRO: Now. Last week started with some sad news. Australia's 21st Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, died at the age of 98. He was in power for only three years way back in the 70s but you won't believe how much happened during his time in office. Here's Tash with a rundown. But first a warning to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people this story contains images of people who've died.*

**NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER:** This was Australia in the 1970s. A time when flowers and flares were fashion and society was changing quickly. It was also the time when this man, Edward Gough Whitlam, asked Australians to make him the leader of the country. In 1972 he was successful and once in office he started changing things.

One of the things he thought was really important was education, so he scrapped uni fees. That meant that more Aussies could go on to higher education and be whatever they wanted to be. Gough also wanted Aussies to have free medical care. So he came up with the free national healthcare system we now know as Medicare. Aboriginal land rights were another issue Gough tackled as PM. He was the first leader to hand back land to its original owners.

**GOUGH WHITLAM:** I solemnly hand to you these deeds as proof in Australian law that these lands belong to the Gurindji people.

He also ended Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and brought an end to conscription which is when people are forced to serve in the armed forces during times of war. He also lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, scrapped knighthoods and other royal honours, got rid of the death penalty, created the Racial Discrimination Act, became the first PM to visit China and he helped protect environmental sites.

Gough was the first world leader to appoint a women's affairs adviser, give single mums welfare payments and he started radio station Triple J.

But despite doing all of that in just three years, Gough Whitlam wasn't popular with everyone. The country's economy wasn't doing too well because he'd spent a lot of money on all of these changes. So in protest opposition senators blocked him from spending any more money, which also meant the Government ground to a halt.

Gough tried to call an early election to replace half of the senators and get things going again. But the Governor General said no and instead he used his special powers to sack Gough as the PM. It was something that had never been done before and has never been done since.

GOUGH WHITLAM: Well may he say God save the Queen because nothing will save the Governor General.

The Opposition Leader at the time, Malcolm Fraser, was named as the care-taker Prime Minister until an election could be held. He then went on to win and become the PM. Gough's sacking caused controversy for years afterwards. Some people thought it was wrong and should never have happened. Others say it had to happen because he was doing too much damage to the economy.

But while not everyone agreed with how Gough Whitlam led the country. Most agree he did transform Australia and give us many changes that are still in place today.

Presenter: Okay, what else happened this week? Here's a wrap of what you need to know.

## The Wire

Last week there was a shooting near Canada's Parliament House. A man shot and killed a soldier at the Canadian war memorial, before running into Parliament where the country's prime minister and lots of other politicians were.

The parliament's Sergeant-at-arms is being called a hero for shooting the gunman there before anyone else could be hurt. In response Australia tightened security around parliamentary buildings just in case.

A new report has raised concerns that some Aussie kids might be falling behind because of where they go to school.

It found students in poorer areas aren't doing as well in their NAPLAN tests as kids from richer areas. Some experts are now calling for the Government to change the way schools are funded to make sure schools in poorer areas get the money they need.

A skydiver has set a new record for the highest-ever jump.

Alan Eustace used a specially-designed helium balloon to travel more than 41-thousand metres up into the Earth's stratosphere before plummeting back to Earth!

He fell for a record breaking 4-and-a-half minutes, reaching speeds of up to one-thousand 300 and twenty-two kays an hour. He landed safely in the New Mexico Desert.

And should you have to go to school on your birthday? That's a question being asked after one principal at a school in Tassie banned students from staying home on their day of birth saying it's not a good enough reason to miss class. Stats show Aussie students already skip school more often than kids in most other developed countries in the world.

## Rabbit Restrictions

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

*INTRO: Now, what sort of crime do you think might carry a punishment of 6 months in jail or a 44 thousand dollar fine? Well that's what you could get in Queensland if you're caught with a pet rabbit. Right now some secret campaigners are fighting against the rule. But why does it exist anyway? Here's Tash to explain.*

**NATASHA THIELE, REPORTER:** We can't show you her face, tell you her name or let you hear her real voice. That's because this rabbit owner from Queensland wants to remain anonymous to protect herself and her fluffy friend!

**ANONYMOUS RABBIT OWNER:** I've had him for about six years now and he's the best decision I've ever made. He's incredibly affectionate, incredibly fun to have around. He lives in the house, he's litter trained and he's desexed. He's a beautiful pet and I don't see what sort of threat he would be to the environment.

You see, rabbits like this guy can't be kept as pets in Queensland and if you're caught with one, you could be slapped with a 44-thousand dollar fine or end up in jail! It's one of the toughest bunny laws anywhere in the world. So why are the rules so strict, when in any other part of Australia keeping a pet rabbit is completely fine?

Well for a long time rabbits have actually been a huge pest in Australia. They were brought here by some of the first European settlers and released for hunting. But their numbers quickly exploded. They soon became a nightmare for farmers because they like to eat crops, as well as native plants. And they're also hard to stop because they breed like crazy! Within two years, a pair of rabbits can turn into a whopping 184!

Over the years, we've built fences like this to stop rabbits from getting onto farms, we've destroyed their burrows and we've poisoned them. But in 1950, scientists found a new weapon; a special virus that only affects rabbits. It was called 'myxomatosis'. It got quick results, wiping out millions. But many rabbits became resistant, so a different virus called the 'calicivirus' was used. All of these measures have helped Queensland to bring its rabbit

problem under control, which is why they don't want to risk another outbreak. But while most people agree feral rabbits are a problem, not everyone thinks pet rabbits are.

ALYSON SHEPHERD, RABBIT CAMPAIGNER: I completely underestimated how beautiful these animals were.

Alyson used to have a rabbit named Pod. She snuck him across the border into Queensland so she wouldn't get caught. But Alyson thinks the laws there are too strict. So she's started a campaign to make pet rabbits legal.

ALYSON: I'm petitioning the government to allow a desexed, domesticated, micro-chipped pet rabbit and allow us Queenslanders the choice to own a rabbit as a pet.

It's something people in the pet industry support. They say they could help keep an eye on rabbits and make sure they're desexed before they go to owners, which would ensure they don't breed if they escape.

If Queensland decides to change its laws, it wouldn't be the first state to do so. Western Australia used to have a ban on bunnies. It was dropped because they found that most house-trained rabbits can't survive in the wild anyway. But for now pet bunnies in Queensland have to keep a low profile, not only to protect themselves but their owners too!

## Online Poll

And that'll be the perfect subject for this week's poll.

The question -

Should pet rabbits be allowed in Queensland?

To vote just head to our website.

And now to our results from last week.

We asked if pet cats should be kept inside.

And the results?

Well it was close but the free cat people took this one out.

As always thanks for voting.

# Fire Fighting Kids

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

*INTRO: As summer approaches, bushfires become a big risk in many areas of Australia. And for the people who live in those areas, often their only form of protection comes from volunteer fire fighters. But how do you get to become one? Well some young kids are already in training. We sent Matt to meet them.*

**SENIOR CADET:** Attention! Cadet fire fighter, Jed Perry, right marker, fall in! Cadets on your mark, fall in. Right address. Eyes front. At ease, stand easy.

**JED:** It's Country Fire Service, that's what it stands for, it's all volunteers who work around South Australia out of their local brigades and they'll respond to all the calls they can go to and try and help out.

**ASHLEE:** The CFS helps the community and assists people when they're in trouble.

**MATTHEW HOLBROOK, REPORTER:** These guys are CFS cadets. They're volunteers who are training to become fire fighters.

**JED:** Every week we try to learn different things so you have a real good idea when you do join up.

They're not allowed to do it for real until they're 16. But until then, this program teaches them everything they need to know.

**ASHLEE:** We assist ambulances and we go to car accidents and also put out fires.

As summer approaches, bushfires are a real risk in the hot, dry, windy weather and communities rely on volunteers like these guys to help out.

**CFS TRAINER:** Cadet fire fighters, with me, we're going to begin our first exercise.

Their first job today is to fill this portable dam and then practice knocking over these cones with a hose.

**JACKSON:** This is the branch. Number one goes on the branch, they control the branch, there's a number 2 behind, who backs up the branchman, and behind that pretty much people pulling the hose off the truck.

**MATT:** And it's your job to knock over the cones, and in real life put out the fire?

**JACKSON:** Yeah



MATT: Are you pretty good at this, are you a crack shot when it comes to knocking over the cones?

JACKSON: Yeah, I try.

MATTHEW HOLBROOK, REPORTER: Safety is obviously really important if these guys one day have to deal with a fire they need to know exactly what to do!

This drill prepares them for an extreme situation, being caught in the path of a fire.

Tom helps run the program. He says young volunteers make a big difference.

TOM PAINTER, STURT GROUP CADET CO-ORDINATOR: A fire service is going to need a lot of people especially with the big bushfires we've had in the past couple of years we need to make sure we've got enough volunteers and training appropriately to protect the community.

The cadets say they're having a lot of fun, but most importantly they're helping to make a difference.

JED: I really enjoy doing it and it's something cool to tell your mates as well that you've joined and it's exciting as well, good fun.

JORDON: I got involved because my grandpa and great grandpa and my dad are in the CFS and my friends have joined and stuff.

ASHLEE: Hopefully when I'm 16 I'll go on to my brigade and be a fire fighter.

## Quiz 1

Now. How does a quiz sound?

The question. How many bushfires occur in Australia each year?

5,400

15,400

54,000

Answer: 54,000

And scarily authorities estimate about half of them are deliberately lit or start in suspicious circumstances.

# Backyard Bird Count

Reporter: Emma Davis

*INTRO: Okay. Last week a very important survey was conducted across Australia. But the survey didn't focus on people, it's focused on birds. It's was called the Backyard Bird Count and it asked everyone to get outside and record which birds live near you. Emma met one class of kids who took part.*

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: Deep in the Australian wilderness, these explorers are desperately searching for any signs of life.

TEACHER: "C'mon kids!"

Birdlife that is! These kids are doing the Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

It was set up by experts to try and get an idea of where our native birds live and to also encourage people to learn more about the environment! And to start with all you have to do is sit, listen and watch!

REPORTER: "Hey Ella and Maddie, so can you tell me what you're doing right now?"

MADDIE: "We're using an app, we're looking at birds and seeing what they look like and if we don't know what they are we type it in here or select from the field guide."

REPORTER: "So what kind of bird have you seen so far?"

ELLA: "Well so far we've found one Dusky Woodswallow, one Crimson Rosella, one black-chin honeyeater, one Australian painted snipe."

They didn't see every kind of bird though.

REPORTER: "Any eagles?"

KIDS: "No."

REPORTER: "Emus?"

KIDS: "No."

REPORTER: "Seagulls?"

KIDS: "No."

REPORTER: "Dodos?"

KIDS: "They're extinct."

The whole program was organised by a conservation group called Birdlife Australia to get a better idea of how many and what type of birds are out there. About 200 of Australia's bird species are under threat, that's about a quarter of them! So it's really helpful for researchers to know which ones are still around and where they're living. The survey only took 20 minutes which might not seem like a very long time but we've still seen plenty of

birds! But while we're now finished, the work is just starting for the researchers behind it all.

SEAN DOOLEY, BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA: "Now that we've collected the data, our people at Birdlife Australia are going to analyse it and they'll probably get rid of some of the more wacky records where people have accidentally entered something in, like I don't think we'll have any dodos that we'll put into our records or you know, an emu out into the middle of the ocean or something like that, unless it was an emu on a surfboard I suppose. So we're going to look at those results that we've got in from all around the country and we're going to start using that to take a snapshot of how our birds are doing and it's going to be particularly important next year when people do the backyard bird count. That we can compare how many birds were in people's backyards this year to next year and we'll be able to get a sense of how some of our more common birds are going because even though they're common they still might be declining in number and it's much better to find that out early than later when it's too late."

But they can only do that with the help of thousands of young scientists recording bird sightings right around the country.

## Quiz 2

Okay. Let's get stuck into another quiz now. What is the only bird that can fly backwards?

Is it

The Magpie

Hummingbird

Or Falcon

Answer: Hummingbird

They do that by beating their wings up to 80 times a second.

## The Score

Okay, Sport time now.

Here's some of the most interesting bits.

The Australian cricket team has lost its First Test to Pakistan by 221 runs in Dubai. The Aussies needed 438 runs to win. Mitchell Johnson and Steve Smith fought hard. But the Aussies were bowled out for 216 in the final session.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Western Sydney Wanderers are one game away from being crowned the best team in Asia! They beat Saudi Arabian side Al-Hilal at home in the first half of the Asian Champions League Grand Final. The Final is split over two games so both teams get to play in front of their home crowd and whoever does better overall wins.

So all the Wanderers need to do is win or draw in Saudi Arabia next week. And they'll be the first ever Aussie team to win Asia's biggest football comp!

\* \* \* \* \*

Now to a talented Aussie who's playing College Football in the US. Last year Brad Craddock decided to quit Aussie Rules and give American Football a crack. He uses his footy skills to score goals and now he's the best kicker in the college's history.

Brad Craddock: 'I got the school record here now for longest field goal and most consecutive field goals that was pretty cool yeah, I got both goals with a 57 yarder that was awesome.' Brad's now hoping for a contract in the NFL.

\* \* \* \* \*

And the Special Olympics has wrapped up in Melbourne. More than a thousand athletes from around the country competed in 16 different sports. Charlie was one of the athletes who did really well. He picked up a gold medal and a personal best time in the 50-metre backstroke.

## Gaming FX

Reporter: Emma Davis

*INTRO: Okay, wrapping up today. We all know video games are a lot of fun to play but what actually goes into making them? Well the kids in this next story found out. They took part in a video game workshop. Emma was there.*

EMMA DAVIS, REPORTER: What types of video games do you like to play? Something with a bit of action and adventure? A role-playing game? Or how about a sports game? No matter what genre you're into, I think we can all agree games are a lot of fun to play. But have you ever thought about how much work goes into making your favourite game? Well these kids are about to get a taste! They're part of a workshop on computer game effects and they'll soon get a chance to put themselves into a game of their own.

MITCH, TEACHER: "What we're creating today is a platform game. So a plat-forming game is basically a video game where a character jumps on platforms and kills enemies and gets to a goal."

Before these guys start designing their games they have to decide on the storyline.

IVY: "The base of the story is there's these construction workers that want to chop down the elf village so this elf has to go ahead and try and destroy the construction workers."

ALEXANDER: "Well my story's about like someone from Minecraft, pretty much me. I'm going through three levels and there are three different bosses."

Then they have to decide how their character should look and create an enemy to defeat too!

MIA: The boss in that is a gigantic slime and the next level is in the end and this is a Giant Enderbrine, which a boss and the last level is the nether and there's a Giant Ghast for the boss that shoots fireballs.

Once all the planning is done their characters' moves were photographed. They did that using a green screen. A green screen is also known as a 'chroma key'. It's a technique used in TV and gaming that can replace one bright colour in a video, usually green, with something completely different. Like this! These guys are using it today because it allows them to add their character, enemy and background into their game.

MITCH: "So we'll have a webcam taking photos one at a time so just moving intricate little details like maybe an arm or maybe moving the mouth or eyelids and then taking a photo each step of the way."

Taking lots of still photos in different poses to make it look like movement is called stop-motion animation and it's often used to make movies too.

So now the photos have been taken and the backgrounds inserted, it's time to see the finished product!

Who knew games could be as much fun to make as they are to play?

## Closer

And that is us done for yet another week! Please remember you can always have your say about any of our stories online using the hash tag 'behind the news'. And while you're online, please check out our website and vote in our poll about pet rabbits. Thanks for watching and I'll see you next week.