BtN: Episode 01 Transcript 3/02/15

Coming up:

- Find out what this girl packed as she escaped from a bushfire
- Meet the kids getting active all thanks to a knight in shining armour
- And these kids show us around their newly heritage-listed city

Hey I'm Nathan, welcome back for another big year of BtN! Let's jump straight into it.

Knight's Kids

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Everyone this week has been talking about Knights. Not the armed kind though. On Australia Day, Prime Minister Tony Abbott gave out two knighthoods. One of them went to Prince Phillip the Queen's husband who's also clearly not Australian. The PM was hammered for the decision but he says it was justified because of the great things he's done in this country, especially for kids. Here's Matt.

MADDY: I'm Maddy, I take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award, and this is one of the things that I do.

MAC: I'm Mac, and this is one of the activities I do through Duke of Ed.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award has made a big difference to these guys.

MADDY: It encourages you get outside meet some new friends and help the community while you're doing it.

MAC: It exists to give people a larger perspective of what they can do through school. Sorta to get kids off their bums and just doing things.

It's a program that's been running in Australia for more than fifty years, and it's helped 700,000 Aussie kids get out and achieve new things.

The name, believe it or not, comes from the guy who started it all, the Duke of Edinburgh. But who is that? Well, maybe you'd know him better by one of his other titles. Yeah, let's not go through these one by one. He's most commonly known as

Prince Philip, the guy who's married to the Queen. And he originally started the awards because he thought boys leaving school at 15 needed something to prepare them for adulthood. But lately, the duke's name has been in the headlines and not for starting this successful charity for kids.

On Australia day, the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, named Prince Philip a Knight in the Order of Australia. That's a special title the PM brought back last year to recognise Australian people who've done great things. He copped a bit of criticism for it back then from people who thought it was an old fashioned idea. Now, there's been an even bigger backlash, because this year the PM's given it to someone who isn't Australian, and already has a huge list of titles. Let's look at those again just for fun.

The PM's since apologised, but there's talk he might even lose his job over it. All over making this guy into one of these. But the reason the PM says he did it was to honour Prince Philip for all of the charity work he does in Australia, including the Duke of Ed award.

MADDY: It's taught me to be more patient and not take things for granted. Through the Duke of Edinburgh award you get to help people out and you see not everyone is as fortunate as you are.

MAC: You also get a lot of personal satisfaction out of completing the award and knowing you have become a more grounded person through helping out the community and doing things yourself.

MADDY: I think it's really important, I love it and I love outdoors, being with my mates.

Admirable stuff. Whether it was all started by a knight or not.

The Wire

Now this summer featured some pretty big stories worth catching up on. Here's a selection.

To other news now and Queensland Premier Campbell Newman has lost his seat and has retired from politics in the aftermath of the state election on the weekend. The Labor party posted a huge turnaround in the poll going from only nine seats to nearly the 45 needed to form government. Counting is still going on but many people have already put some of the blame for the poor result on federal liberal leader PM Tony Abbott.

After more than a year behind bars, Aussie journalist Peter Greste has been released from an Egyptian prison. He and two other journalists were sent to jail on charges of supporting terrorists and spreading false news. But many journalists claimed he was simply reporting the news and campaigned strongly for his release. He says he will continue fighting for the release of two Egyptian colleagues who are still being held.

And finally a couple of Canadian adventurers have become the first people in the world to climb up Niagara Falls. Quite a few people have managed to go down Niagara and live to tell the tale. But Will Gadd is the first person to do it the other way round. His partner, Sarah, made it to the top an hour later. The falls are partly covered in ice at the moment, which is how they managed to get up without being swept away.

Manus Protests

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Now, one of the stories that kept coming up over the summer was the issues on Manus Island. It's the place where one of Australia's immigration detention centres is. But right now many of the detainees there aren't happy with the way they're being treated. So what parts of Australia's immigration system aren't they happy with? Here's Matt with a walkthrough of the entire process.

Hi! So you want to move to Australia? Well it can be a bit easier if you've already got family here, or if you're planning to study, or you can do an important job. No?

Well there's another way, but only if your life is in serious danger. It is? Well you might be able to come as a refugee. A 'refugee' is a person who's had to run away from their home country because their life is threatened.

This has to be proved though. Until people are proved to be genuine refugees they're called Asylum Seekers. There are three main ways that people seek asylum in Australia. The first is to apply and then wait for their application to be approved. Many wait in refugee camps like this after escaping their home country. But it can take years for an answer either way. Most are left living in a camp like this for a long time.

Another way people seek asylum in Australia is to arrive by plane and ask to stay. This may seem like an easy option, but for genuine refugees, plane travel can be nearly impossible, because you need money, a passport and safe access to an airport.

Finally, some people seek asylum in Australia by boat. It means not having to wait in a refugee camp or risk going to an airport. But it can be expensive, and dangerous, because it usually means travelling in an unsafe boat with hundreds of other people.

The Australian Government wants to discourage all asylum seekers from arriving in Australia this way. They say it's dangerous and controlled by criminals called people smugglers. So the last few governments have sent nearly all of those that have arrived here by boat to these two detention centres far away from Australia instead. They're called Manus Island and Nauru.

Once there, asylum seekers are processed. That means someone decides if their life is really at risk back home. But even so, it's unlikely they'll end up in Australia. The government's made changes recently that mean refugees will be settled in Papua New Guinea instead. That's what's happened to this man. He came from Iran by boat and ended up on Manus Island, where he stayed for 18 months before being found to be a genuine refugee and allowed to stay. But only in Papua New Guinea.

REZA MOLLAGHLIPOUR, REFUGEE: Absolutely I am very, very happy that I could leave there. You can see, you can see I'm walking around here without any officers, without anything, and I'm alone.

But recently, many of the asylum seekers still held in detention on Manus Island have been protesting about their treatment by Australia. They say it's cruel to be kept in the conditions they are for as long as they are. Human rights groups have also spoken out against the way we treat those who seek asylum here, and say Papua New Guinea is not a safe place for them to be either.

But the Australian Government says it's doing what it can to process applications as quickly as possible and it's not changing its policy. So that's what it takes to become a refugee in Australia. As you can see, there are no easy choices ahead.

Quiz 1

Okay. Next up, it's quiz time. See how you go with this one.

How many refugees did Australia accept last year?

Was it:

3,750

13,750

33,750

Answer: 13,750

Bushfire Escape

Rookie Reporter: Ella

INTRO: Earlier this year a bushfire hit parts of the Adelaide Hills in South Australia. Lots of people were evacuated from their homes as hundreds of firefighters worked to stop it. But what's it like for a kid in that situation? Well Rookie Reporter Ella has given us a special insight. Take a look.

ELLA: Hi, my name's Ella and this is my house. I live with my family in Kersbrook, a little town near Adelaide in South Australia. But this summer my family and I could have lost our house in a bushfire. Our yard used to look like this, but now it looks like this. Let me tell you what happened.

The smoke was coming from this way and the sun was bright red which was scary. Mum said we have to evacuate and do our bushfire plan. We have to have a plan because we live in a bushfire danger area and we've been taught about it ever since we were young. It means being prepared like clearing the yard of sticks and leaves and making sure the outside of the house is really wet.

The main part of our plan is to get out early to make sure we're safe. It was hard to decide what to pack. Can you imagine packing all your most important things into one small bag? I decided to pack some clothes, my pillow and my pooh bear. It was scary leaving the house, not knowing what it would be like when we got home.

We drove to the local footy oval where a lot of my friends were also waiting. We stayed there for a few hours then went to my Nonna's. A lot of people in the community helped my family by donating food and water and they protected my house from the fire. After 5 days we were finally allowed to go back to our house and see what it was like. We were really lucky. Our yard, shed and swimming pool were all burnt down, but our house was saved. My car, my mum's car, we couldn't get it out so we had to leave it here, it got all burnt.

It's been a month since the bushfire and our yard is still really black. Mum says it's going to be a few more seasons until it's green again. My school had a pretty close call in the fires. Here you can see how close it got to the buildings. There used to be 4000 big trees here but they all got chopped down.

ELLA: This is my principal.

MIKE WALSH, PRINCIPAL: Hello Ella.

ELLA: Mr Walsh, how's the school doing?

PRINCIPAL: We've been very lucky Ella. We haven't lost any of our school buildings, the classrooms are all safe and sound but we have lost the sport shed, that's been damaged beyond repair, we've lost some fencing and there's been some buildings where they've been burnt on the outside but they're being fixed and being painted now.

So as you can see it's going to take a really long time for everything to get back to normal in my town. But the whole community's helping those worst affected and we'll all get through it together.

Presenter: Thanks Ella. Okay, next we're going to take a closer look at Australia's national anthem. But first a quiz about one of the more confusing lines in it.

Quiz 2

What does the line 'our home is girt by sea' mean?

Is it:

That the sea is one of our best features.

That we mostly have sandy beaches.

Or that, Australia is surrounded by sea

The Answer: is that Australia is surrounded by sea

Aus Anthem

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Now our national anthem was played across the country on Australia Day. and it got another big run at the Asian cup soccer final too. But despite all of us knowing it so well, some people think it's actually not the right anthem for us. Amelia found out more about how we ended up with this song and what some people would like it to change to.

KID 1: Australians all let us rejoice.

KID 2: For we are young and free.

AMELIA MOSELEY, REPORTER: It's the official song of Australia. It's meant to represent you, me and every Australian. And it's meant to make us all proud too!

It's sung at sporting events and important ceremonies. But it hasn't always been that way. For decades Australia's national anthem sounded more like this. It was called 'God Save the Queen' and it was a lot more, well British. It made sense because Australia used to be a part of the British Empire. But since Australia had become an independent country, some thought it didn't quite fit anymore.

So in 1973, Australia's PM decided we needed a new anthem to represent Aussies better. He set up a competition which was dubbed 'The Australian national anthem Quest'. Anyone could enter lyrics or music to win five thousand bucks! But the judges found the entries just weren't that good. So a few years later the government put four different songs to a public vote instead. It included God Save the Queen, Waltzing Matilda and this song called Song of Australia. But Advance Australia Fair came out the winner! It was actually an old song written by this guy, a school teacher called Peter Dodds McCormick way back in the 1800s.

Originally, it had four verses and some of the words were a bit different. Lines like 'Australia's sons let us rejoice' were changed to include women as well, while these third and fourth verses were cut out altogether. And now, the first verse is sung by thousands of people at all sorts of events. But, what about the second?

REPORTER: But what about the second?

KID 3: Ahhh nahh, I don't know it.

KID 4: Nah I don't know it that good.

KID 5: I actually heard a study saying most people know the Daft Punk song more than the national anthem, which is pretty yeah.

That's why some people have called for the whole anthem to be taught to kids, rather than just the first verse. And then there are other people who think the anthem should change. They say words like 'girt by sea' and in 'joyful strains' are a little out of date. And they also want it to represent all Australians better including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

REPORTER: Others reckon we should just scrap the old one altogether and pick a whole new song for our national anthem. Hmm, not bad. Maybe something more like this?

So what do you guys reckon? Should the song that's meant to bring us all together get a makeover?

KID 5: It's been with us for so long, it's been through so many monumental moments of Australian history, who would want to change it?

KID 6: I wouldn't change it at all cause it's sort of part of this country and it's really important to us.

KID 7: It's been there for so many generations, it's just yeah hard to let go of.

Online Poll

So are you an Advance Australia Fair fan? Or are you keen for something new?

That's our poll this week.

The question -

Should we change Australia's national anthem? To vote, just head to our website.

The Score

Sport time now. Here's some of the best moments for your enjoyment.

The Socceroos are now the best team in Asia after winning the Asian Cup! They beat South Korea in the final 2-1. Massimo Luongo had the team in front through most of the game until the South Koreans equalised in injury time. But thankfully, James Troisi scored for Australia in extra time clinching the country's first ever Asia Cup win.

Australia also had a big win in the cricket wining the one day tri-series against India and England. The Aussies met England in the final and opened the batting setting a target of 279. But Australia's bowlers shone in the match knocking England over for just 166. The Aussies say the win has left them confident ahead of the Cricket World Cup which kicks off on the 14th.

Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams have taken out the singles titles at the Australian Open. But the tournament was also a big success for some young Aussie players. 19 year old Nick Kyrgios made it all the way to the Quarter finals. While Bernard Tomic earned a spot in the fourth round.

And it's one of the most watched sporting events in the world - the Superbowl. This year more than 100 million people tuned in to see the Seattle Seahawks battle it out with the New England Patriots. The half time show entertained as well with Katy Perry riding some kind of giant triangle-based animal before dancing with some sharks. In the end the Patriots came from behind to win 28 - 24

Heritage City

Rookie Reporter: Neve

INTRO: Okay last up today. After a long campaign, Broken Hill, an outback city in the far west of NSW, has become the first in Australia to be declared a national heritage area. It's a pretty big deal. So we asked local kid, Neve, to tell us why it's such a fascinating place to live. Take a look.

NEVE: Hi I'm Neve and welcome to where I live. I live in Broken Hill, far-west New South Wales, the gateway to the outback and now the first heritage listed city in all of Australia. People have been living here since 1883 and today, there are around 19-thousand of us that call it home. It's also known as the 'Silver City' because there's heaps of silver, lead and zinc mined around here. It's even the birth place to the world's biggest mining company BHP, which stands for Broken Hill Proprietary.

This is where I live with my Mum and Dad. Our house is over a hundred years old and we may not have a view of the ocean, but we do have a view of an old mine shaft. Behind me is the Post Office. It was built 123 years ago in 1892 and to the right is the Town Hall facade which is only now a facade because the back of it burnt down a really long time ago. It was also where the heritage announcement was made!

It's pretty cool we're now on the National Heritage List. It puts the city on the map and it means we get some money to help protect our town for years to come. I caught up with our Mayor Wincen Cuy to find out what he thinks about it.

NEVE: What's so special about Broken Hill?

MAYOR CUY: Well Broken Hill's history in union movements, in innovation and people that come out of Broken Hill has been absolutely fabulous over the last 130 years and just a great place to live you know, you've got wide open spaces, you can go from one point to the other point in less than 10 minutes and just a really fabulous place to bring up young kids.

Even my friends reckon it's great news!

NEVE: Georgie, what do you love about living in Broken Hill?

GEORGIE: I love that in Broken Hill everything is so small and close together, everyone knows each other and you can pop out for a drink whenever you like or go to your friend's house.

And Hannah, why do we deserve a heritage listing?

HANNAH: Well I think because we have such a rich mining history and cultural history, it just makes Broken Hill such an iconic and fascinating place. We really deserve it!

NEVE: We do!

HANNAH: As you can see, Broken Hill is an awesome place to live.

GEORGIE: And we're stoked it made the Heritage list.

NEVE: We're proud to call Broken Hill home!

Presenter: A big thanks to Neve for that report!

Closer

And that wraps us up for today! Before we go, just a reminder our poll is now open to take your vote. And if you've got something you want to share with all of us, you can leave a comment on our website too. We'll be back next week with all of the stuff you need to know, Bye for now.