

BtN: Episode 09 Transcript 31/03/15

Coming up:

- Australia remembers former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.
- Meet the kid who managed to single-handedly change the design of our money.
- And find out how this kid became Australia's under 18 skateboarding champion at just 9 years old

It's an amazing story. Hi I'm Nathan. You'll see that story and many more a bit later on.

Reef Funding

Reporter: Eloise Fuss

INTRO: But first today, to the federal government's announcement that it's going to chip in an extra \$100 million dollars to tackle the environmental problems plaguing the Great Barrier Reef. The new funding has come on top of the release of a new report which explains how issues like pollution and the crown of thorns starfish should be stopped. Eloise checked in with a local school to find out more about it.

ELOISE FUSS, REPORTER: In these big tanks, this class of kids are breeding some colourful tropical fish and corals.

KID 1: Here we have many types of coral, soft corals and hard corals.

KID 2: This is the common, but everyone's favourite orange clownfish.

KID 3: Here are some black clownfish. For five years we've been breeding Clownfish - it's a difficult process, they have to be fed live food that is grown by us.

They're growing these tropical species to sell to pet shops. For every tropical fish they breed and sell it means one less taken off Australia's reefs. It's all part of their effort to help out an Australian icon that's in trouble.

Sitting off the coast of North Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world. It covers almost 350,000 square kilometres, an area almost the size of Japan! It's actually made up of more than 2,900 smaller coral reefs, and it's home to heaps of tropical sea plants and animals.

It's so beautiful and so unique that in 1981 it received World Heritage status. But all this could change, unless we step in and help.

According to the reef authority, there's all sorts of things that have started to damage the Great Barrier Reef. Climate change is making the water warmer, which can kill parts of the coral and make their colour fade. Extreme weather, like flooding and cyclones, is destroying big areas of seagrass, whilst illegal fishing and poaching can be a problem too.

But declining water quality is a biggie. As mining increases on the nearby coast, big ports have been built and leftover sand dumped in the ocean. Some say this can make the water dirtier, and affect the health of reef plants and fish. On top of that, pollution has been a problem too. Things like farm chemicals can wash out onto the reef and cause outbursts of bad sea pests like this nasty looking thing, the prickly crown of thorns starfish.

These threats are getting so bad, the United Nation's World Heritage Committee is deciding whether it needs to put the reef on its 'In Danger' list. It's the job of the Queensland and Federal Governments to look after the reef, so if it was classed 'in danger' that would be like giving them a big F on their report card.

So recently the Government stepped in:

STEVEN MILES, QUEENSLAND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER: “Today we launch Australia's plan to save the Great Barrier Reef.”

An extra 100 million dollars has been promised to try to improve water quality on the reef. Something the kids at this school are pretty happy about.

KID 4: What I love about the Great Barrier Reef is I get to see animals I can't see anywhere else, and it's very close to my town.

STUDENTS: The Great Barrier Reef is a natural wonder which we all have to look after for future generations

That's why they're doing what they can to save the Great Barrier Reef, one clownfish at a time.

The Wire

To other news now:

The New South Wales state election was held over the weekend. And people there voted to keep Premier Mike Baird in the top job. The Liberal-National Coalition won pretty easily, even though Labor picked up a few more seats and the Greens picked up three new ones in the lower house too.

Air crash investigators reckon they know what caused a plane to crash in France last week. The flight was travelling from Spain to Germany when it hit the side of a mountain, killing all 150 people on board. Experts have been looking at the black box and flight data. And they say the co-pilot did it deliberately but they're still investigating why.

Australia's bravest citizens have been honoured in this year's bravery awards. Calyn was only seven when he saved his younger brother from being run down on a busy street taking the hit himself.

He survived life-threatening injuries and now he's been given a Bravery Medal. Cody was also awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct for stopping a thief from getting away with his mum's handbag.

CODY SUNDERLAND: "Half way up the hill he turned at me, went to strike me. He missed."

And last Friday thousands of people turned out to say goodbye to former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser. He was Australia's PM for more than seven years starting in 1975. Current and former political leaders were all at the state funeral, along with Fraser's family and members of the public.

Malcolm Fraser

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Now as you just saw there last Friday was the memorial service for former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser. He started leading the country in controversial circumstances during the 70's but went on to make some big changes. Here's Carl with a look back at his time in office.

CARL SMITH, REPORTER: In 1975, a technological revolution was changing the world. Australian television was switching from black and white to colour. A mechanical shark was terrifying movie-goers at drive-in cinemas all over the country.

And a little company called Microsoft was just starting out. Politically things were rapidly changing in Australia too. At Parliament House a crisis was brewing. And this man, Malcolm Fraser, found himself in the hot seat.

The Governor-General had just removed a Prime Minister called Gough Whitlam from power. That had never been done before, and hasn't been done since!

GOUGH WHITLAM: "God save the queen because nothing will save the Governor-General."

As the head of the opposition at the time, Liberal party leader Malcolm Fraser was declared the nation's care-taker Prime Minister until an election could be held.

MALCOLM FRASER: "All those who want Mr Whitlam to get the hell out of Canberra."

And he had the not-so-simple task of restoring order to a chaotic parliament. He tackled the job head on and soon after won the biggest election victory in Australian history.

So Malcolm Fraser became Australia's 22nd Prime Minister; officially, this time. Fraser was elected three times between 1975 and 1983. One of the things Fraser is best remembered for is supporting multiculturalism.

He was Prime Minister in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, which Australia and America had fought for many years. But the war left a lot of Vietnamese people without a safe place to live. So Fraser decided to help them by opening Australia's doors. He helped settle tens of thousands of Vietnamese refugees.

Among them were Emelie's dad and grandparents; they came here by boat while Fraser was Prime Minister.

EMELIE: "I don't think they could have survived out there or I probably wouldn't be here right now. We're really grateful for Malcolm Fraser because otherwise we wouldn't be blessed with such a big family!"

But Malcolm Fraser supported multiculturalism in other ways too. He oversaw the creation of the SBS in 1980, a network to help tell the stories of a diverse nation. And overseas Fraser protested against South Africa's treatment of its black citizens.

In 1983 Malcolm Fraser lost his fourth federal election to Bob Hawke. But the Australia he left, looked pretty different to the one he started leading in the 70s. The economy was booming and Australia was beginning to define its identity as a country.

After leaving politics Fraser continued fighting for many of the causes he'd championed as Prime Minister. But he also began questioning his own party - the

Liberals. In particular he spoke out against its stance on asylum seekers, and when Tony Abbott became Liberal leader in 2009 Fraser quit the party altogether. But throughout it all, Malcolm Fraser remained a highly respected figure in Australia. He fought hard for what he believed in, but his favourite catch cry shows he wouldn't have had it any other way:

MALCOLM FRASER: "Life wasn't meant to be easy. But take courage child, for it can be delightful."

Quiz 1

Okay, time for a quiz now. Good luck guys. What was the population of Australia when Malcolm Fraser became Prime Minister?

Was it:

10 million

14 million

Or 20 million

Answer: 14 million

The population now is around 24 million.

Tactile Banknotes

Rookie Reporter: Connor

INTRO: Most kids love getting money for Christmas. But for 13-year old Connor cash gifts have always been a bit of a headache. He's blind so he could never tell how much he was given. So he decided to petition the Royal Bank of Australia to add a Braille label to notes so he could tell how much they're worth. Here's Connor to tell you how it went.

ROOKIE REPORTER, CONNOR: Hi! My name is Connor and I'm 13 years old. I like getting outdoors, especially going rock climbing, abseiling and wild caving. But doing this fun stuff can be a little tough, especially because I'm blind. I've been blind ever since I was born. I can see contrasted shapes but I can't see real far and I can't see too much detail. I can tell your approximate height but I can't tell your hair colour.

To help me get around I had to learn cane skills when I was two. I call my canes my skinny guide dogs. I also have a special program on my computer called Jaws. It reads me what's on the screen. When I was younger I had to learn to read and write Braille. It's pretty cool. If you've never seen it before, Braille is a tactile writing system. That means I touch it instead of reading it with my eyes. The different sequences of bumps make letters and words and when I touch them I can tell exactly what the words say. The living creatures of our home are too numerous to name. Braille's pretty cool because I can read in the dark.

Being blind can also be a bit of a nuisance, especially when it comes to money. Telling the difference between coins is easier than telling the difference between notes. When I get money for Christmas or birthday presents I have to ask people how much I've gotten. Sometimes I get a bit nervous in shops when I have to pay for things with notes so I need a little bit of help. In other countries such as Canada, they have raised dots on their notes so that blind people can tell the difference between them. These are called tactile bank notes. This made me wonder why Australia didn't have them too.

I started an online petition to get the Reserve Bank of Australia to add tactile features to Aussie bank notes. We posted links to the petition all over Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus and we got the support of Vision Australia and the Human Rights Commission. All up we got just over 57 thousand signatures which is way more than we expected! There's been heaps of media attention too. We've been talked about in the UK, America, New Zealand, Singapore, Europe and all over Australia. And the best part is all our hard work paid off!

Last November we spoke to the Reserve Bank of Australia and this year they announced the next generation of bank notes to be released will have the tactile markings. It's pretty awesome to know that hundreds of thousands of people around Australia will be helped by something I made happen.

If there's one thing I've learnt from the whole experience, it's that if you put your mind to anything and never give up, it could happen like it did for me.

Presenter: Amazing work Connor. Okay, next up we're heading into space but first a quiz.

Quiz 2

What is a shooting star?

Is it

A comet

A dying star

Or a meteor

The Answer: Meteor

Humans in Space

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Now, during the school holidays the world will celebrate the anniversary of the first time a person was sent into space. It was an amazing achievement that paved the way for many more space success stories in the years after. Carl celebrates with a look back at our biggest space moments so far.

CARL SMITH, REPORTER: Humans have looked up at the stars for millennia a whole universe of planets, asteroids, moons and suns. But they were all too far away to explore in person. On April 12, 1961 that all changed. Yuri Gagarin, a Russian cosmonaut flying in the Vostok 1, became the first person to make it into space. And that one trip helped change the course of history.

Space is a hostile place - there's no air to breathe and it's freezing cold. But conquering it became an obsession for countries like Russia and the US.

JFK: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things not because they are easy but because they are hard."

So huge amounts of money and research went into building this: Apollo 11. And on July 20, 1969 it landed on the moon. Americans Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first two people to step onto the lunar surface.

NEIL ARMSTRONG: 'One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'

But there were more leaps to come. In the 70s the US set up something called Skylab. It was the world's first space station, letting people live in space! But it wasn't the last.

In 1981, the launch of the space shuttle Columbia marked the beginning of reusable space craft. And they helped build this giant structure which can be seen with the naked eye from Earth! It's called the international space station and people have been living in it since the year 2000. They even answer questions you might have about space.

The knowledge gained from space missions like this has helped make other things possible too. Satellites now orbit the earth in their hundreds. Relaying TV signals, phones and the internet all around the world.

The costs for human spaceflight are enormous, spaceships can cost billions of dollars to develop and launch. So a lot of the big ambitious projects now use unmanned satellites and advanced robots.

But there's still plenty to learn about our universe by sending people into space. Some companies have set up space tourism programs to take people beyond Earth's atmosphere just for the experience!

BRANSON: “Virgin Galactic is on track to become the world’s first commercial space line and if you've ever dreamt of joining the incredible group of pioneering astronauts your opportunity has arrived.”

And you've probably heard about this project, which wants to send people to Mars for an out-of-this-world reality TV show!

Mars One trailer: “The crew is actually going to stay and live on Mars with the intention to live there for the rest of their lives.”

If that all goes to plan then we might be able to prove we've got the technology to travel even further. So although the world is getting ready to celebrate the history of sending people into space, the future of space exploration still looks pretty bright too.

Online Poll

Okay. Let's find out how you feel about the future of space exploration with a poll.

Do you think humans will ever find another habitable planet?

Head to our website to place your vote.

The Score

Okay, missed something this week in the world of sport? We've got you covered.

The Australian one day cricket team is now officially the best in the world after the Aussies breezed past New Zealand in the World Cup final in Melbourne. Fittingly Michael Clarke top scored for Australia with 74 in his last One Day International ever. And successor Steve Smith notched the winning runs.

Starc was named player of the tournament and the World Champs say they'll be doing plenty of celebrating over the coming days.

Aussie teenager, Ben Simmons has been named the National Boys Basketball Player of the Year in the US. Ben was born here but moved to America to pursue basketball. He's tipped to be a future star of the NBA.

And finally, we often show races between young people but this is getting ridiculous. It's a baby race which was held during a break at an NBA game. It was quite a battle, with some of the contestants a bit confused about where the finishing line was. The eventual winner turned up the speed to snatch the title to the delight of his very proud father.

Skate Prodigy

Reporter: Eloise Fuss

INTRO: Finally today. How old do you think Australia's under 18 skateboarding champion is? Seventeen? Maybe sixteen? Try 12. Eloise found out more about this insanely talented young kid who's already taking the skateboarding world by storm.

ELOISE FUSS, REPORTER: Imagine having your own personal skateboard ramp, or getting to travel to places like Paris for skating comps, and you've nailed some incredibly moves all by 12 years old.

This is what life's like for this kid, Keegan. He's a skateboarder from the Gold Coast and by just nine-years-old was already the under 18 champion of Australia. So he was beating skaters twice his age, and twice his size too!

FORMER WORLD SKATEBOARDING CHAMP: People know him around the world, he's well known as one of the renowned up and comers. Just recently Keegan skated at a junior championship in Melbourne. He pulled off awesome moves, even though he had a broken arm and a cast on.

KEEGAN: I broke my wrist just when I was coming down here so that was a little bummer, but I'm still skating and I'm still having a lot of fun

Keegan makes it all look super easy, but does he ever get scared going for those big tricks?

KEEGAN: Oh yeah all the time, but just if you get scared of something try it, try something that makes you happy and go for it, and then you feel good afterwards when you land a new trick.

Even though Keegan's a skateboarding superstar, he still has to do school work.

KEEGAN: My Mum always is just, 'do your school work, do your school work' all the time.

Keegan's homeschooled, so he can still train three hours a day, travel to comps all around the world, and not get behind in his school work.

KEEGAN: When I went to normal school I was missing so much school because I just kept travelling the world, going to do contests. And then my mum just said 'oh let's just do homeschooling so I don't miss as much school, so I can bring my work with me on the aeroplane and I can finish it.

In between all that homework and skating, Keegan manages to fit in some surfing as well. He rocks at that too.

KEEGAN: I would like, just love to be a professional surfer and a professional skater, just living life to the fullest.

Older skaters think in a few years he could be the best skateboarder in the world

FORMER SKATEBOARDING WORLD CHAMP: I think what really sets him apart is he's really focussed, and he's keen to make things happen, I mean you just have to watch him skate and you can see he's something special.

And to those of you dreaming of following in Keegan's shoes:

KEEGAN: If you put your mind to it you can learn anything.

But let's be honest, this kid would be a pretty big act to follow!

Closer

And that brings us to an end for today!

We'll leave you with a final look at some of the messages we received during our #BehindYou anti-bullying campaign! Thanks again to all of the schools that got involved.

See you after the Easter break!