

BtN: Episode 14 Transcript 26/05/15

Coming up:

- Some celebrity terriers shine a spotlight on quarantine laws.
- Meet the kids that are the best in Australia at arguing.
- And would you like to live underground? Rookie reporters Evanna and Robert show us what that's like.

Hi I'm Sarah and this is BtN.

Reconciliation Week

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: This week is National Reconciliation Week. It's about celebrating the first Australians and trying to make the country a more equal place. Amelia found out how some young people are working to bring together indigenous and non-indigenous Aussies. And a warning to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers, this story contains images of people who have died.

AMELIA MOSELEY, REPORTING: On a crowded beach in Perth, Jasirah was nervously getting ready for her social experiment.

JASIRAH: I set up everything, I put my blindfold on, put my arms out and I think it was like five minutes of waiting and I was just like, 'What if no-one hugs me?,' all these thoughts in my head.

The minutes ticked by, but soon enough someone took up her offer.

WOMAN: I trust you, do you trust me? Let's hug. I trust you. I trust you. I trust you. Good girl.

Jasirah's Aboriginal and her test is all about encouraging people not to judge others by the colour of their skin.

JASIRAH: Having, like, my coloured skin, it's pretty hard for people to get out there, 'cause a lot of people have that negative stereotype of what indigenous people are like.

She was really shocked by a study that found about 71 per cent of Australians think people are prejudiced against Aboriginal people, and only 13 per cent reckon there's trust between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

JASIRAH: And that stat really motivated me to move towards change and encourage people to trust more rather than judge people by how they look or their race or their background.

Even though Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were in Australia long before anyone else; they haven't always been treated the same as other Aussies, or had the same rights. For a long time, they weren't allowed to go to the same schools, shops and hospitals as non-indigenous people and they weren't even counted as part of Australia's population.

Over the years some things have got better, but some still reckon the country has a lot of work to do to make sure everyone's getting the same level of respect, understanding, and the same opportunities. That's why, every year, schools, governments and organisations talk about reconciliation.

TEACHER: What's Reconciliation Week?

BOY: It's for non-indigenous and indigenous people to get together.

Just like Jasirah, these guys are working towards that in a really positive way. They're learning about Aboriginal culture and even picking up one language called Pitjantjatjara. Today's class is all about creating colourful art using three little words to encourage people to take action.

GIRL: We're making 'change it up' posters where we can use the words change it up.

BOY: I think it'd be good to go with Reconciliation Week, because I am Aboriginal and I just want to celebrate it.

BOY: It's important to have people who actually do things about this because if you didn't it'd just keep getting worse and worse.

GIRL : It's fun as well and it helps me as well, learn my culture.

Some people reckon it'll be up to you guys to help change people's attitudes and get rid of bad stereotypes in the future.

WOMAN: Aw that's a good hug. You're very brave to do this.

After all, we all deserve to feel trusted, valued and respected by the people around us.

The Wire

Let's have a look at some of the week's headlines now. Here's the Wire

Hundreds of asylum seekers have been rescued in Indonesia. They'd spent months at sea after being turned away by countries that weren't prepared to look after them.

There are thousands still on boats and last week South East Asian leaders met to try to find a solution.

Malaysia and Indonesia agreed to help the people who'd been rescued. And they said they wouldn't turn away boats in the future. But Australia's Prime Minister says it's important not to encourage people to get on dangerous boats so none of the refugees will be re-settled here.

Over in Europe, Ireland has voted to allow same sex marriage. It's the first country to decide the issue with a referendum which is when everyone gets to vote. It's been a really controversial issue in Ireland and in Australia. But the government and opposition say there won't be a referendum here.

Australia's Guy Sebastian has impressed audiences at the Eurovision Song Contest. Australia was given a one-off opportunity to compete in the contest which is usually reserved for European countries. And Guy did pretty well. His song 'Tonight Again' finished in fifth place. The big prize went to Sweden's Mans Zelmerlow who beat the competition with his catchy tune and cute dancing stick figures.

Iron Ore

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Last week there was a lot of talk about one particular type of metal: Iron! It's really important for the Aussie economy and as the price has fallen, it's hit the country's budget hard! There have even calls for a big government investigation into why the price was so low. Carl thought he'd have a closer look at just what iron is and why it's causing so much debate.

CARL SMITH, REPORTING: What am I? I'm found in buildings, bridges, and skyscrapers. I've been shaping humans' lives for thousands of years. And this guy is named after me.

REPORTER: The answer is: iron!

Iron has been around since the earth was born and it's believed to make up a huge part of the planet's super hot core. But some of it also sits closer to the surface. Up here it's called iron ore.

Ore is the name given to a chunk of rock or mineral filled with important elements so iron ore is rock with iron in it. Okay, but how do we pull the iron out of that rock then? Basically with lots of heat. Things called blast furnaces can melt away and separate the iron from the rock. This is called smelting and it turns the iron into a liquid metal. From there it can be poured into casts and shaped into all sorts of things - more than you can possibly imagine! Iron is a super useful element.

It's incredibly strong and we can shape it into pretty much anything. That's why humans have been using and producing it for more than 3000 years! The period from 1200BC to about 600AD is even called the Iron Age. The first things we made using iron were weapons and tools. And since then we've never stopped using it.

Today we combine it with other metals or elements to make things called alloys. One common alloy is made up of iron and carbon, that gives us steel. Steel is used in construction all the time because it's strong but also pretty cheap.

Luckily for us Australia has heaps of iron ore. Most of it is up here around the Pilbara region, and overall we export more than four billion dollars worth each month! But recently the price of iron ore has dropped dramatically from 135 dollars a tonne to below 50 dollars.

Most experts say there are two reasons why this is happening. One, China has been mining more of its own iron ore and buying less from Australia which has helped drop the price. And two, some mining companies have been selling more iron than they used to which has driven down the price as well.

But this drop in prices isn't just a problem for mining companies. If they make less money, then the Australian government collects less tax money from them too. So the government can't spend as much in the budget and that affects all of us. So that's the story of iron in Australia.

But in spite of all of these recent problems, this strong and shiny metal still remains an incredibly useful element in our lives and an important resource for Australia's future.

Quiz 1

Right, let's go to today's first quiz.

What is the chemical symbol for iron?

Fe

Pb

Ir

Answer: Fe

Quarantine Questions

Reporter: Eloise Fuss

INTRO: You might remember a big story in the news recently about Johnny Depp's dogs. He brought them to Australia so they could be with him while he's starring in the latest Pirates of the Caribbean film. But he didn't put them through quarantine and that is a big no-no. Eloise found out why.

ELOISE FUSS, REPORTING: He might usually play a pirate but recently Johnny Depp tried his hand at smuggling too. His cargo? Little dogs by the name of Pistol and Boo.

But much like the plot from one of his movies, things didn't go smoothly. He was caught out and confronted by agriculture minister Barnaby Joyce.

'THE CANINE CALAMITY': I'm terribly sorry I didn't know. Mr Depp has to either take his dogs back to California or we're going to have to euthanise them.

Okay it didn't quite happen like that. It looked more like this.

BARNABY JOYCE, AGRICULTURE MINISTER: Mr Depp has to either take his dogs back to California or we're going to have to euthanise them.

But you get the point, the government threatened to have the dogs put down! But why are two little dogs such a big deal? Well it's all because of something called biosecurity. Let me explain.

Every day lots of people and goods arrive in Australia on planes and ships from all over the world. But what if something else arrives that we don't want here like a new pest or disease? It could wipe out a whole species of plant or animal or a whole industry that we make lots of money from. That is where biosecurity comes in. It's all the things the government does to make sure that pests and disease from other countries can't get into Australia.

Little dogs like Pistol and Boo might look harmless but they can actually carry diseases that we don't already have here. That doesn't mean they're not allowed to come to Australia, they just have to follow a special process first. From getting special microchips put in them to vaccinating them, treating them for parasites, and testing them for all sorts of different diseases.

But that's not the end of it either because what would happen if the dog caught something just before it arrived here? To protect Australia against that, all live plants and animals have to go into quarantine too.

Quarantine is when something is kept in isolation for a while to make sure it's not carrying any disease. So for pets like dogs and cats that means going to a special facility for between 10 and 30 days to make sure they're okay. And every animal that comes into Australia has to go through it including cats, horses, alpacas, birds, bees, eggs, and plants too.

Even dogs that have gone overseas to fight with the army have to stay in quarantine when they get home!

Once they've served their time the pets are allowed to go home with their owners. And Australia is kept safe from pests and disease! So that is what Johnny Depp forgot to do when he brought Pistol and Boo in on his private jet.

And while it might have seemed like a big fuss about nothing it could have ended very differently if these little dogs had brought a little disease with them. But luckily everything ended up okay and Pistol and Boo made it out of the country safe and well. Giving this story a happier ending than Captain Jack Sparrow is usually used to.

Online Poll

Okay, so as you can see quarantine is a big deal. But some people said the situation could have been handled a little more sensitively. So let's find out what you think.

Was it right to threaten Johnny Depp's dogs with the death penalty?

Head to our website to place your vote.

Last week we asked you if hip hop is the most influential type of music in Australia. And most of you apparently think it is. 55 percent of you voted yes. And 45 percent said no.

Debating Championship

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Now, if you're the sort of person who likes a good argument this next story is for you. Last week some of the best debaters in the country were in Adelaide for the Australian National Debating Championships. Carl went to meet some of the competitors and found out more about the art of arguing.

CHAIRPERSON: Welcome to round six of the 2015 National Schools Debating Championships. I now declare this debate open.

CARL SMITH, REPORTING: This is a debate, and it's a really important one.

DEBATER: It was the fact that these scholarships abandoned the 99% which was why they were so harmful.

These guys are competing to be the top high school debating team in the country.

DEBATER: So this idea that like we can't have scholarships and we ah no thank you sorry, if we do have school funding is false.

A debate is like an argument, although it's a little bit more complicated than that. Both teams have three speakers, they're given a topic and in this case just an hour to prepare. Then the action begins.

DEBATER: We told you that we would ultimately support the improvement in these areas, we told you that we would support the building up of education and the improvement of attendance rates.

Judges give each speaker a score based on their argument, their presentation, and the structure they use.

DEBATER: Wider society of sees it as tokenistic and unfair. Point of Information.

So how can you make a good argument? Well you have to prove your ideas are right and your opposition's are wrong. That normally means lots of facts and showing people your idea makes sense.

But you also have to make sure you explain things clearly. And you shouldn't get personal or rude.

This one was a tight battle, and the stakes are high. So who won?

ADJUDICATOR: The majority of the panel has given this debate to the negative side from South Australia.

After the debate was over these elite arguers shared a few extra tips.

DEBATER: Some of the tactics our coach gives us are like putting a face on it, if you think about what kind of people this would help, who it would directly affect.

DEBATER: You need to tell the audience or tell whoever you're talking to, that there is something wrong with the world that you're trying to solve and then you need to tell them exactly what your argument is, and what you're trying to do to solve the problem, and then you need to tell them why that solution is going to work.

DEBATER: I'd definitely advise thinking about everything you say before you say it.

And they reckon the skills you pick up from debating can help with all sorts of things.

DEBATER: In terms of schoolwork it is so helpful, you're learning things that your schoolmates your classmates, just simply wouldn't be learning.

DEBATER: If you want to write an essay, you need to know how to make a speech they're identical things, using evidence, using examples and using structure.

Debating can also help you with lots of jobs. In case you hadn't noticed it's something these guys do all the time, and many people running companies or working in courtrooms have to be able to argue well. That's part of the reason why around 30,000 school kids like these guys do debating. But debating isn't just about beating people in arguments.

DEBATER: It's extremely fun, especially if you're passionate about issues because it does get you to see both sides of the debate.

And that's something no one can argue about.

Quiz 2

Okay, time for our second quiz.

The people who decide the winner of a debate are called:

- Choosers
- Coaches
- Adjudicators

The Answer is adjudicators.

The Score

Okay. It's time for sport now. Here's the Score.

The first women's AFL game of the year was played at the MCG on the weekend. The Demons led the game at every change before a late challenge by the Bulldogs. But for the third year in a row Melbourne came out on top winning by eight points. The AFL says it'll push to set up a national women's league by 2017.

Teenage pro golfer Minjee Lee has taken out her first world title at the LPGA tournament in the US. Quite a win seeing as the young Aussie's only been playing pro for six months!

MINJEE LEE: Because I won in my rookie season, I feel like I could probably do it again. Just a great confidence booster.

Lee's ranking has sky-rocketed to 19th in the world and she'll compete in the US Open in July.

The Matildas will be heading to the World Cup with plenty of confidence after they destroyed Vietnam in a warm up match. The Aussies knocked six in goals in just nine minutes on their way to an 11-nil win! They'll take on two-time world cup winners the USA in June.

And finally, here's something you don't see every day on the soccer field. Yes, it's a giant bottle of barbeque sauce. The A-League held a special match to farewell Central Coast Mariner's John Hutchinson. And things got a little heated between Brent Griffiths and the saucy mascot. Griffiths got a red card for making a late tackle which caused the sauce bottle to fall to the ground.

COMMENTATOR: Shocking challenge Brent Griffiths. He's gonna get sent off, oh he's sent off! I think the sauce bottle will be applying the ice after the game.

Coober Pedy

Rookie Reporters: Evanna & Robert

INTRO: Finally today, you're about to find out more about life in a really interesting Aussie town. Coober Pedy is about 800 kays north of Adelaide, right in

the South Australian outback. It's known as the opal capital of the world and it's just turned 100 years old. Here're our Rookie Reporters Evanna and Robert.

EVANNA AND ROBERT: Hi BtN, my name's Evanna, and my name's Robert, and we're going to show you our town Coober Pedy.

There's not many towns in Australia like ours.

ROBERT: This is where Coober Pedy is right now.

We live here in the South Australian outback. It's a long way from pretty much anywhere. Aboriginal people have lived in this area for ages, but Coober Pedy itself began 100 years ago. In 1915 settlers came out here looking for gold, but they found opal instead.

Lots of people came and started digging mines. They wanted to find heaps of opal, and get rich. This is what they look like. They are really colourful. Today our town's known as 'the opal capital of the world', because 90% of the world's opal has been found here - it's everywhere!

EVANNA: 100 years ago when they were making this mine they missed this opal that was 25 cm into the dirt, they only found this when they were making this museum. If you find this 25cm into the dirt just imagine what you could find through all these walls.

Most people here don't live in normal houses in Coober Pedy. They live underground.

EVANNA: This is the inside of a dugout, it's like living inside a rock basically.

It gets so hot out here in summer so living underground helps us keep cool.

EVANNA: This is where the air comes in for the air shafts to keep fresh air inside a dugout and these are what they look like.

Dugouts are also a good place to escape during dust storms.

EVANNA: It's like all these bulls running at you, it's weird. Coober Pedy gets boring at times, but it'll only get boring if you're not doing anything.

And there's heaps of things we love to do here.

I reckon going to the basketball courts is fun.

ROBERT: On Saturday's going to the drive-ins

EVANNA: Yeah, that's heaps fun. And hanging out with all our friends, having smoothies, having a good laugh watching a great movie. Yeah, it's deadly isn't it?

The best place for me to go hang out is normally the big winch, because it has a beautiful view it's the view of Coober Pedy which is so beautiful, because you can see right out from where the white hills is, all the way to town, and when you look at the outback it's just a beautiful view.

And now our town is 100 years old! And to celebrate we had a big party. I hope my story has made you want to visit our town one day too.

As for me, I definitely want to live here forever!

I find it better than other places because you can do whatever you like. If you were in the city you don't really get this much opportunities as much as you get in Coober Pedy and here it's open - it's the best.

Closer

That's it for this week. See you next time!