

BtN: Episode 22 Transcript 11/08/15

Coming up on Behind the News:

- Trophy hunting in the crosshairs. We find out why some people want it stopped and others want more of it.
- Meet the kids helping to put the mistakes of the past to rest.
- And find out why this song is rarely ever heard in TV shows or movies.

Hi I'm Nathan and this is BtN. Thanks for joining us. You'll see all that later but first today, it's been another big news week so let's find out what went down in The Wire.

The Wire

Tony Smith has been elected as the new Speaker of Australia's Federal Parliament. The Liberal MP takes over from Bronwyn Bishop who resigned from the position after claiming thousands of dollars on travel that she later admitted she shouldn't have.

Smith has called for a 'better parliament' and says he will be fair to both sides of politics.

Malaysia has confirmed that a piece of plane wreckage found last week does belong to the missing plane MH370. The plane disappeared in March last year.

Since that first bit of wreckage was found on Reunion Island search teams have also found seats and window panes. The search continues for the rest of the plane and its flight recorder which could tell us why the plane crashed.

The latest NAPLAN results are in and although they haven't improved a lot they're still pretty good. But some experts reckon schools should have improved more in the past seven years, especially in areas like Maths where there are worries we're falling behind other countries. The highest results were in ACT, NSW and Victoria. But you will have to wait a few weeks longer get to see how you did.

And astronauts on the International Space station will soon be eating the first ever crop of fresh food grown in space! It's part of a big NASA program that's looking at how we could survive on planets like Mars.

The astronauts' first batch of space lettuce was grown in a special capsule with only red, green and blue light.

Speakers' Job

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: Now as you just heard there Australia has a new speaker! But what is involved in the prestigious role he'll be stepping into? Here's Matt to tell us all about it.

How would you like to be in charge of this lot? Yep, it doesn't look easy. But if you can manage this, you might do pretty well here. Yep, just like a classroom, our parliament can sometimes get a bit rowdy.

That's why this job exists - the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It's a really important position that comes with some really important responsibilities. The Speaker is the one who runs the whole show. They call people to speak, tell them when their time is up and make sure everyone follows the rules; handing down punishments if they don't.

Brownwyn Bishop, Former Speaker: The member for Isaacs will leave under 94a. You can regard yourselves as universally warned.

The Speaker's also got the best seat in the room - to see and hear what's going on. So, think you can manage it? Well, while that kind of power and awesome seating might sound pretty handy, once upon a time it was a dangerous job.

The office of "speaker" dates back to 13th Century England. It was up to the speaker to deliver news from Parliament to the King. And if that news annoyed the King, well, things could get messy. Over the years, speakers have been imprisoned, or even beheaded whilst doing the job.

Not to worry, these days it's a much safer position. Here in Australia, the Speaker has to be a member of the House of Reps and it's up to the House to vote them in.

The trick to this job though, is that the Speaker's supposed to treat all members of parliament fairly and equally. They're not supposed to take sides in arguments or debates and they're only supposed to vote if there's a tie. So while being in charge definitely has its perks, it means giving up some things as well.

That's what this tradition is about. When a new speaker takes office, they're escorted, struggling, to the chair - or pretending to, anyway. That struggle might well have been a bit more serious in the days when getting beheaded wasn't out of the question.

Tradition plays a big part in the job, including in how the speaker is dressed. That can include a gown, and even a wig, although it's not worn very often these days. This is important to the speaker, too - the mace. It's a symbol of the authority of the Speaker and of the House itself. And each day begins with it being placed on the central table. Outside of parliament, the speaker has work to do, too, representing the House of Reps, and making sure Parliament House is being looked after.

And, of course, the Speaker still has to represent their electorate on top of all of this too. Clearly there are a lot of responsibilities that come with this important and prestigious position. But, if you think you're cut out for it, remember, the wig is definitely optional.

Quiz 1

Okay, quiz time now.

Where did the Parliament of Australia first meet?

Canberra

Melbourne

Sydney

The answer is Melbourne. Federal Parliament moved to Canberra in 1927

Trophy Hunting

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Now the death of a famous lion called Cecil in Zimbabwe has ignited a furious debate about trophy hunting. It takes place legally in some countries, where proceeds often go towards conservation efforts or humanitarian aid. But does that make it okay? Here's Amelia with both sides of the issue.

They're the incredible creatures that roam the plains of Africa and every year hundreds of thousands of tourists travel to this continent to get a glimpse of them. But while most people are satisfied with photos; others want a much bigger souvenir to take home.

Around 18 thousand tourists come to Africa each year to hunt animals for sport, like lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalos and leopards. Sometimes they take parts of the dead animal home as a trophy too, which is why it's known as trophy hunting.

But unlike poaching, where people kill animals illegally to sell their parts, trophy hunting is actually legal in many African countries. There are special permits and designated hunting zones where tourists can pay big bucks to hunt and kill an animal.

It's really controversial, and lately it's made headlines all around the world after the death of one famous lion called Cecil.

He lived here in the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe and was a big tourist attraction. Cecil was known for being relaxed around humans and was even part of a big lion study by scientists at Oxford University in England.

But early last month Cecil was killed by this American trophy hunter who says he paid around 68 thousand dollars to hunt a lion. He says he thought he was doing it legally, but authorities reckon his hunting group lured Cecil out of his protected habitat.

News of Cecil's death sparked anger on social media sites across the world. Many took aim at trophy hunting saying that it's cruel and unnecessary to hunt animals for sport, especially endangered species or vulnerable species like lions.

Zimbabwe responded by putting a stop to the hunting of lions, elephants and leopards in the area around the national park where Cecil was killed. But other groups went further. For example, some international airlines banned people from taking trophies home on their planes.

In Australia, it's already illegal to bring many animal trophies into the country. But some say other countries need to start doing the same to make trophy hunting more difficult.

But there's another side to this debate. Some people reckon if hunters follow the rules - trophy hunting can actually be a good thing. The industry itself says many African countries make millions of dollars a year from animal hunts and some of that money goes to help poor, local communities.

Some conservationists even support trophy hunting, because the money can go towards projects which protect endangered animals, so they say the good outweighs the bad. But what do you think?

GIRL 1: It's kind of good that it's going to the poor people, but you don't really want to kill animals because they'll go extinct.

GIRL 2: Sometimes it's good cause you need food for meat and stuff but if you're killing it for no reason, why?

BOY 2: I suppose for the hunter himself he wouldn't just be doing that for no reason, it would probably be something like shooting that he likes. So, not entirely a good thing, but fun for the hunter.

BOY 3: If the animals were killed more and more, the ecosystem would be out of balance.

BOY 1: If you were that animal would you like it if people went around paying thousands of dollars just to kill your species?

Poll

Okay, let's find out what you think too.

Should trophy hunting be banned?

Head to our website to place your vote.

Indigenous Burial

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Now most people get to choose what happens to their remains when they pass away. But in the past many indigenous Australians did not. Some indigenous people's remains were taken away and put in museums for study or exhibition. Now, those remains are coming home and some kids are helping to lay them to rest. Here's Amelia.

But first a warning to Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander viewers, this story contains images of people who've died.

These guys are on their way to do a very important job. They're helping to plant hundreds of native plants. But it's what lies beneath the earth that makes this task such a special one.

GIRL 1: It's for the old aboriginals that are buried underneath us.

Underneath these kid's feet lie the remains of 68 ancestors of the Kurna people who lived here long before European settlement. They died a really long time ago, but their remains were only just buried here five years ago because they had been taken and put in a museum; just like the remains of thousands of other indigenous ancestors all over Australia.

JOE MITCHELL: It reminds you of the stolen generation of the living now we've got the stolen generation of the dead.

The issue dates back to the early 1900s, when scientists believed Indigenous Australians were different to other races and that they were going extinct. So tens of thousands of their remains were deliberately dug up, or found, and used for study.

NARRATOR: In the North of Australia, scientists of the Arnhem Land expedition set out along the Alligator River to gather specimens.

But they weren't returned to their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities afterwards. Instead, they were brought to universities and museums just like this one.

REPORTER: And for a long time, many Indigenous communities had no idea it was even happening. Some of their ancestors remains even ended up in museums on the other side of the world.

The practice made many indigenous Australians very angry and upset, because it's disrespectful and broke their burial customs and spiritual beliefs. So in 2001, the Government encouraged museums and unis to hand back any remains they had.

Five years ago, the Museum of South Australia started doing just that. They handed back the remains of 68 ancestors to the Kurna people who held a traditional smoking ceremony to cleanse the bones, before returning them to their land.

JOE MITCHELL: I think our ancestors have waited too long to come back into the earth, so we've put 'em back to mother earth so their souls can rest and fly free again. Roam the country!

For their descendants, it was a really significant moment. And five years later, these kids are planting trees to pay respect and recognise that connection to the land that was taken from them for so many years ago.

BOY: It's good and sad at the same time.

GIRL 3: It's pretty emotional when you think about it.

GIRL 1: Yeah I think it's good that they're here where they were many years ago instead of in the museum.

There are still about ten thousand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's remains stored in museums and unis in Australia, and about a thousand overseas. But many people are working hard to return them to the land where they belong.

BOY 2: I'm really happy that I could be a part of this and yeah it's so special that I could be here today.

Happy Birthday

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: 'Happy Birthday' would have to be one of the most performed songs on Earth. But have you ever noticed that it's almost never sung in movies or TV shows? That's because it's under copyright in most countries, meaning filmmakers or producers have to pay if they want to use it. But now a legal challenge in the US is trying to change that. Here's Carl.

Singing: "Happy birthday to you

Happy birthday to you

Happy birthday dear...."

POLICEMAN: Stop what you're doing! Get down on the floor!

KIDS: What???

POLICEMAN: I MEAN IT!!! That song you're singing belongs to someone else. Put the party popper down! And get your face away from that cake!

BIRTHDAY KID: Hang on a minute, how can Happy Birthday belong to someone!?

Well every song has to start somewhere.

This one started in the minds of these two American primary school teachers, Patty and Mildred Hill, who came up with the tune in 1893.

But back then the song was called 'Good Morning to All'. A little while later it was given new lyrics and became the Happy Birthday song. Then in 1935 the tune was officially registered by a music company. And it's now owned by Warner/Chappel Music after they paid a huge 5 million dollars for it!

But why would someone want to own the Happy Birthday song? Well it's because songs or books, films and even inventions are protected by copyright laws. Copyright laws let writers, musicians or other artists charge money if people want to use their creative products.

So it means they get credit and some cash for their hard work! And there's plenty of money to be made through copyright. The Happy Birthday song earns a whopping 2 million dollars a year because of copyright!

But that doesn't mean you are meant to pay every time someone's birthday comes around! Normally singing it at Birthday parties is completely ok. That's because you aren't trying to sell the song.

POLICE: Stop right there get down on the ground! Oh that's completely fine. Sorry carry on carry on!

So you don't really have to worry about this happening!

But if you are trying to sell the song or something that you've used the song in, like say a film, tv show or advertisement, then you'd have to pay.

Using copyrighted works can actually be pretty expensive too.

The Happy Birthday song can cost up to \$13,000 dollars to use just once!

Thankfully here in Australia we don't have to pay to use it because each country has slightly different copyright laws.

But in places like America people have tried to find lots of different ways around the laws.

COMMUNITY: "...to you." That was weird, how come we only sang the last two words and didn't sing the happy birthday part?

And some even set up a competition to find a better birthday tune. Here's the winning song. Yeah, it hasn't really caught on.

But now a documentary-maker in the US reckons she's found a loophole. She's uncovered an even older version of the Happy Birthday song that was never copyrighted. Which if true means it can't be in copyright today!

The court case still has a long way to go. But if she wins then this tune would become free for everyone to use whenever they like, for better or worse.

The Score

Ok, time for the biggest plays of the week now. Here's Sport.

Aussie cricket captain Michael Clarke has announced he's retiring from the game. It comes after a humiliating Ashes defeat where Australia struggled to put runs on the board.

The Aussies lost the fourth test by an innings and 78 runs. Clarke says he hasn't been performing well lately. And thinks it's best for the team if he retires.

To swimming now and it looks like Aussie swimmer Bronte Campbell will have plenty to brag about at the next family dinner.

COMMENTATOR: Bronte Campbell upsets big sister and Bronte is the world champion!

BRONTE CAMPBELL: I can't believe it. That was a fantastic race, exactly what I expected. I can't believe that I came out on top! Who knew, right?

Bronte beat her older sister Cate at the world championships in Russia becoming just the third swimmer in history to win the 50 & 100m freestyle double!

It capped off an awesome showing from the Aussies; finishing second overall behind the United States.

And finally it's the definition of cutting edge motor racing. It combines a lawnmower, a 1.4 kilometre course and 12 hours of riding around.

Team Northerners were a cut above the rest taking out the speed mowing title.

Quiz 2

Okay next up we're going to meet the first two Aussies selected to represent the country at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.

But first we're going to a quiz about the event they were selected for.

What is the name of the Olympic event that features five different sports?

Is it

The Decathlon

The Pentathlon

Or the Heptathlon

The answer is the Pentathlon.

Olympic Siblings

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: The two young people in our next story have just been selected to represent Australia in the pentathlon. They also just happen to be brother and sister. Here's Matt to tell us more about them and the 5 events they'll be tackling in Rio.

It's a sport with challenges unlike any other. Competitors have to swim, run, shoot, fence and ride their way to victory. This is the Modern Pentathlon. And for brother and sister, Max and Chloe, it's a sport they love. It's also something they're really, really good at. Soon they'll be competing together at the Olympic Games in Rio.

MAX: It was an honour knowing I was going to represent my country, and being this young, I'm over the moon.

For now, they're hard at work training for the event. And with five different areas to master in the modern pentathlon, there's a lot to do!

CHLOE: Normally we'll do, like, four to five session as day, so it's a full-on day, like, it's a full-time job.

The sports involved in the modern pentathlon might seem like a strange mix, but they're based on the skills a soldier would need in the 19th century. While those skills might seem a bit outdated now, the event hasn't changed all that much. Although these days competitors shoot with a laser pistol!

Max and Chloe have grown up with the sport. Their dad was a pentathlete too, representing Australia at the 1984 Olympics.

DANIEL ESPOSITO: I love pentathlon. I think it's the greatest Olympic sport out. So, I pointed 'em in that direction.

These days, Dad is also their coach.

CHLOE: It's so nice having Dad. I've always said that I wouldn't have been able to do what I've done and get the results I have without Dad.

And with so many top athletes in the family there's a bit of sibling rivalry.

MAX: Yes, we compete a lot, but have our little arguments, but in the end, we're always brother and sister. We push each other and we know our boundaries, so she helps me and encourages me to do her best and I do the same with her.

Their sister Emily is also hoping to qualify for the Olympic Games in pistol shooting. If she does, it'll be an Aussie record for the most number of people from the same family in the same Olympic team. For Chloe, it will be her second Olympic games and she's hoping to do even better this time.

CHLOE: Well, I don't like to sound cocky or anything, but after last Olympics, I was surprised with my result then. I came seventh. And I said to myself, next Olympics, I want a medal.

While Max is happy to have made it this far.

MAX: Just being there will be exciting and that is an achievement, being at Rio for me. But if I stick to my task that dad gives me then I might have the opportunity to be on the podium.

Closer

Right that's it from us for this week.

But please join me on Friday for our weekly #AskaReporter session!

Next week's topic will be on the Speaker's Job.

So if you'd like your school to get involved there are instructions on our website.

Thanks and bye for now!