

# BtN: Episode 34 Transcript 24/11/15

Coming up on Behind the News:

- Community closed - meet the kids preparing for the end of their small town.
- Find out all about Albert Einstein 100 years on from the release of his most famous theory.
- And Tim shows us how a wheelchair can provide plenty of thrills.

Hi Nathan here and thanks for joining me! You can see all of those stories later but first.

## Questions about Paris

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

*INTRO: The terrorist attacks that took place in Paris recently have understandably left many kids feeling anxious and overwhelmed. A lot of those feelings often come from not having answers to some of the questions running through your head. So we're going to try to help. This week we asked a class of kids what they wanted to know about what happened in Paris. And we gave Matt the job of working out all the answers. Take a look.*

Images like this have brought the world together, monuments lit up in blue, white, and red, the colours of the French flag. And people everywhere, showing their support for those affected by the attacks in Paris.

But despite this good will, attacks like this can still be scary and confusing to think about, so it's natural to have some questions about what's going on and why.

KID: What does ISIL want to achieve?

Islamic State, also known as IS, ISIS, ISIL and Daesh is an extremist group that's threatened to harm anyone who doesn't agree with its views. The UN says ISIS has already killed or injured tens of thousands of people trying to make that happen.

KID: Why would Islamic State kill so many innocent people?

We don't know for sure why Islamic State targeted Paris. In fact, around the same time it claimed responsibility for a big attack in Lebanon too. But ISIS says the Paris attacks were revenge for the French bombing it in Syria.

KID: Where and when did ISIL originate from?

Officially it formed in 2013, but it actually stretches back more than two decades. And for a while was part of another extremist group, Al Qaeda which was responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks in America back in 2001.

KID: Is Australia going to be next?

Well, right now, Australia's threat level is high, which means experts say an attack could happen here. But it's worth remembering that Australia has heaps of specialist agencies, and lots of clever people like intelligence officers and counter-terrorism police working around the clock to stop that from happening.

MALCOLM TURNBULL, PRIME MINISTER: Australians can be assured we have the best security agencies - they are monitoring the situation and seeking to protect Australians at home and so far as we can abroad.

And despite what happened in Paris, attacks on Western countries are still pretty rare. That's one of the reasons why they make such big news stories when they happen.

KID: Is there anything we can do to help?

Finding a way to help after an event like this can be really hard. But one thing you can do is add your voice to all of the others standing against these terrorist attacks. Millions of people around the world, including many Islamic leaders, have spoken out against ISIS. Because they say the extremist group doesn't represent the teachings and beliefs of Islam. So they want all people, Muslims and non-Muslims, to stand together against them.

You can also share messages of support to those that have already lost so much, just like these guys did.

KID 1: Hope is with you.

KID 2: May peace be with your nation.

KID 3: We send our prayers.

KID 4: Stay Strong.

KID 5: Pray for the families of Paris.

KID 6: We will stand by you.

KID 7: Don't give up.

KID 8: We're all behind you.

And if you'd like to leave your message of support for the people of Paris please go to our website to find out how.

## The Wire

Time for the Wire.

Still on Paris, and schools have re-opened more than a week after terrorist attacks rocked the city. These guys say the attacks were really scary but that most French people are staying strong.

KID: It is probably going to recover, but it's going to need some time.

KID: When that kind of big event happens, after a while everyone gets better. And I think now the right thing to do is just keep going.

KID: Paris is really strong and no matter what is thrown at the city, it's going to come back and it's going to be even more vibrant and lovely as ever.

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Back home now and super high temperatures and strong winds have caused some terrible fires across parts of the country. But the worst blazes were here in Esperance on the south coast of WA.

Many people there had to evacuate their homes and some schools were closed, while sadly four people also died. Some areas are still on high alert until the dangerous conditions ease.

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A family in Townsville is asking for funding from the public to expand their koala hospital!

ALISON BEE: This is Tallulah. She's one of our patients we've had in for two months.

Alison and her family live on Magnetic Island and they're helping koalas that have been affected by a big drought in the region.

ALISON BEE: When I first started seeing koalas in the early 2000s we realised there was nowhere really that could take them so we've just built up from there.

At the moment they only have room for about 5 koalas. But they're hoping the public will give money to help them take care of more.

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And the 2015 Oxford English dictionary word of the year isn't a word!

For the first time ever the dictionary picked an emoji to sum up the mood of the year! It says 'laughing with tears of joy' was used by millions of people around the world this year. And deserves a special place in the history of how we communicate!

## Poll

Now I think that emoji story would be perfect for this week's poll.

Should emojis be added to the dictionary? Head to our website to place your vote.

Now last week we asked you if you would like to be an astronaut when you grow up. And most people went with no.

But there were still enough kids that clicked yes to mean we could have more than a thousand astronauts in Australia within the next decade or two! Thanks for having your say.

## Leigh Creek

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

*INTRO: Now imagine being told that nearly everyone you know will soon be forced to move away. That's what's just happened to the kids of Leigh Creek in South Australia. The mine that employs most of the people in the town has just closed down meaning the community will soon disappear too. Here's Amelia with more.*

To these kids, this country town is the only home they've ever known!

KIDS: It's in the outback.

KIDS: It takes six hours to get there.

It's called Leigh Creek and it's here in South Australia. Locals say it's a pretty nice place to live!

KIDS: My house is right near the outback, we have a gate and we can see the sun rising every morning.

Most people in Leigh Creek live here because of this - a big coal mine a few kays out of the town. For more than 70 years it's employed thousands of mine workers who came here from all over Australia; even across the world. Over the years, the coal mine has helped create power for the whole state and as more people moved to Leigh Creek for work, a school was built for all the new kids.

But now the kids of Leigh Creek are about to face some big changes. The mine is getting old and it isn't making enough money to stay open, so last week it shut down for good. For many kids in the town that means their parents won't have jobs here anymore.

BOYS: For people that've been working there for 50 years; I reckon they'd be pretty sad it's their last shift.

And it means they'll have to move away.

BOYS: Since the mine's shut down, they need to move so their parents can make money and have a decent life.

KIDS: Sad, sad, sad that I'm losing all my friends and we'll have to move. Same.

Out of 100 kids at the Leigh Creek area school, more than half will have to move to a new city or town.

KIDS: Some people are moving to Western Australia and I'm also moving to Queensland.

For them, it'll mean a new school, new friends and a new life away from Leigh Creek.

KIDS: I'll miss riding with my friends, just us two friends and going out to creeks.

That's why they've made this video.

VIDEO: To some people it might just be a town but to me it's a home.

It's giving them a chance to talk about how they feel and tell other kids about what's going on too.

VIDEO: I've lived here all my life and I can't imagine living somewhere else.

BOYS: It's gonna be pretty sad, but if we make a movie, people will remember Leigh Creek and remember all the good times.

SCHOOLKIDS: We went to the pool last week and we did some filming and we're just looking at some of the videos that we made.

VIDEO: When Leigh Creek shuts down I think I'll miss my friends the most.

Even though it's a big change, the kids of Leigh Creek are all doing what they can to help each other through.

KIDS: I'm scared that I'm going to be making new friends and all that, but one door closes and another one opens.

And no matter where they end up, they'll never forget their special home in the outback.

## QUIZ 1

Okay let's stay with mining for a quiz. How much coal does Australia export compared to other countries?

- The most
- The second most
- Or the third most

The answer - the most!

## Relativity

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

*INTRO: One hundred years ago Albert Einstein announced his general theory of relativity to the world. It was pretty complicated but it had a huge impact on our understanding of how the universe works. But how did he come up with it? Here's Matt to walk you through this amazing man's life.*

He's the guy who didn't like to wear socks, dropped out of school, and helped inspire the look of Yoda. It's Albert Einstein's and he's mostly known for being a brilliant scientist with some incredible ideas.

The world heard about one of those ideas, on the 25th of November, 1915, when Einstein announced the final equations for his general theory of relativity. It was a huge moment, but even today his work on relativity is still helping to give scientists a better understanding of our universe.

Albert Einstein was born in Germany in 1879, and he was a pretty normal kid. He liked playing violin, did OK in school, and was pretty good at maths. But at 15, he dropped out and tried to get into Uni, but failed his entrance exams. Yep, even a person often called the smartest of all time can fail a test. He then started a new life in Switzerland.

He got into Uni there and studied to be a teacher. But after he graduated he couldn't find a teaching job so he got work in a Patent Office, checking out other people's inventions. And it's about this time that Albert got busy putting together some pretty impressive scientific ideas of his own.

In 1905, he published several important papers, including one with this famous formula which you've probably seen before.

But what Albert Einstein considered his most important work came in 1915, when he published his general theory of relativity. It's all about the relationship between space, and time, and it gave us our best understanding yet of how gravity works.

100 years later, that theory is still really important. It's helped scientists explain the existence of black holes, how time travel might be possible, and even how the universe was formed. It's still inspiring new research into physics and astronomy too. Like the experiments going on here at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

Not long after Einstein's general theory of relativity was released, he became famous around the world. And in 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. Albert Einstein has a really important place in history books and as we celebrate 100 years of general relativity, scientists say there's still a lot more to learn and discover from this scientist's unique way of thinking. And no we're not just talking about his attitude towards socks.

## Tropfest Cancelled

Reporter: Carl Smith

*INTRO: Less than a month out from the popular Tropfest short film festival organisers have announced it now won't go ahead. That shocked many filmmakers including lots of kids who still haven't been told whether the kids version, Tropfest Junior, will be canned too. Carl met up with one filmmaker and some budding filmmakers to find out what effect this might have on kids wanting to get into the industry.*

Colourful characters, crazy situations, and great stories. Short film festival Tropfest has shown Australians plenty of weird and wonderful things over the past 22 years. It started here in Australia back in 1993 and now it's the biggest short film festival in the world!

There's also a kids' version of the festival called Tropfest Junior which was set up in 2008, and it's helped launch the careers of many budding young film-makers!

Cameron was a tropfest finalist in 20-10 with this claymation short film. He says the film festival opened lots of doors for him.

CAMERON, GooRoo: Yeah that whole experience was amazing, it was screened in front of 100,000 people in Sydney and then on TV all around Australia. That's kind of what it's all about as a film-maker, getting that big audience!

He still makes animated films, and his success at Tropfest has led him to set up a program showing kids how to make them too!

CAMERON: We bring in all our characters and show them some of our films and what goes into making them.

KID: We are making an animation with some plasticine blobs and they turn into a lot of things and jump over each other and morph together

KID: Our team name is the 'splatinator awesome people' and yeah it's really fun working with the plasticine cos it's really easy and you can make whatever you want.

KID: We're learning to do clay animations, we've got to take pictures with an app downloaded onto our ipad and then we put it all together to make a short film!

KID: It's really fun, because one of my favourite subjects is art, and it's great fun doing art and videos with your friends.

KID: I think it would be fun to make a movie, and it'd be fun to put it into Trop Junior maybe!

But for any young Aussie movie-makers looking for their big break things have just got a lot harder because this year's Tropfest has been cancelled. The organisers of the festival said the company in charge of Tropfest's finances has run out of money. So the event won't be able to go ahead.

It's been a big shock for fans and other film-makers.

CAMERON: It is a shame, because it's the best opportunity for film-makers to get their film out there - especially in Australia.

KID: I think Tropfest is a really good opportunity for them to show what they can do, and show it to the whole world, show their ideas and imagination.

KID: I think they're important because they give young people a chance, especially to like have a go at something like animation and cos animation, there is really no limits you can do whatever you want with creativity.

KID: Lots of people would have been looking forward to it, and there might have been lots of people that put lots of effort into it, and I think it should definitely go on next year!

Luckily, organisers are already looking for a way to do just that.

So hopefully these kids will have somewhere to show their blockbusters in the years to come.

## Quiz 2

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Okay time for our second quiz. And we'll move from short films to the opposite end of the scale. How long is the longest movie ever made?

- 18 hours
- 120 hours
- or 240 hours

The answer is 240 hours. It's called 'Modern Times Forever' and it's ten full days long.

## The Score

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Right it's sport time now. Here's some of the biggest moments from this week.

People all around the world have paid tribute to New Zealand Rugby great Jonah Lomu who died this week at the age of 40. The former All Black was regarded as one of the best players of his time and during his 73-match career he scored a massive 43 tries.

People all around the world have paid tribute to Lomu and in Auckland the kids of Lomu's former school Wesley College did a special haka to say farewell.

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One of Australia's greatest fast bowlers has retired from international cricket. Mitchell Johnson has taken more than 300 wickets in test matches and made plenty of runs with the bat.

He made the announcement during the second test against New Zealand which ended in a draw. The Kiwis gave Johnson a guard of honour as he came out to bat for his last innings. And after the match he was carried off the pitch by his team mates.

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And finally a big shout-out to seven year old Ethan who managed to push through a bad case of the hiccups while he was trying to sign the National Anthem at a baseball match in Adelaide!

For the awesome effort he was given a round of applause and plenty of high fives.

## Wheelchair Motocross

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

*INTRO: Finally today to a sport called wheelchair motocross. It involves a wheelchair, a skate park and heaps of courage and we introduced you to it briefly in the Score a couple of weeks ago. But you wanted to know more about the young guy trying to get it to take off here in Australia. So here's Amelia with Tim's full story.*

For Tim, it doesn't get better than this. The action sport of Wheelchair Motocross!

TIM: WCMX it's like skateboarding and BMX but it's on a wheelchair. It's just riding a wheelchair in a skate park, you don't have coaches you don't have to be pushed you go at your own pace. There's no real way to describe it, it's like nothing else I've ever done, it's freedom, it's doing what you want when you want.

He first gave WCMX a go back in 2009 and instantly, he was hooked!

TIM: I just bought a hospital wheelchair and went to the skate park and that and I had dad's help to get to the top of the ramp and then eventually, I got the courage to do a wheelie and drop in by myself.

He was inspired by this American WCMX superstar Aaron 'Wheelz' Fotheringham, who's helping the extreme sport take off.

TIM: What sparked my interest, was seeing all these videos of Aaron, following him and doing all these amazing tricks and thought to myself, I want to do that because it's just freedom, the adrenaline rush. It's just fun!

Tim has a condition called Hypotonia which is why he has the wheels.

TIM: I'm not in the wheelchair fulltime, like I use it 50/50 with crutches and that's as a result of having low muscle tone, a condition I was born with that affects me from the waist down.

He says WCMX has helped him to do things he never imagined.

TIM: WCMX helps with getting up and down curbs, getting up and down stairs, I can crab walk over rocks if I have to, all sorts of things. Things you wouldn't think you could do in a chair, WCMX makes possible.

Of course, like any extreme sport, it takes a lot of safety gear and a lot of practice.

TIM: When you fall you get really annoyed, but you're like I'm not going home til I land this throwing yourself at the concrete until eventually you get it.

And Tim's had some close shaves.

TIM: The largest bowl I ever dropped into would be the pizzy pipe death bowl, it's about 12 foot and I did that on a hospital wheelchair. I survived it, but I broke my wheelchair clean in half!

But he's come a long way and now he's even teaching the sport he loves to others!

TIM: Josh is a little kid I teach, we met at the skate park about two years ago - there was an instant connection between me and Josh.

JOSH: When we first met up, I didn't know him and he go down the mountain and after that I copy him. He give me encouragement when I'm scared to go down it.

One day, Tim would like to run his own WCMX events and competitions, and hopefully encourage more kids just like Josh to give this unique sport a go!

TIM: My hope for WCMX is mimic what the US has done with the sport; it's really taken off there and I want that for Australia.

## Closer

And that brings us to the end of our show for today.

But on Friday Matt and I will be with you for #AskaReporter to tackle all your questions about Albert Einstein.

Now, next week's episode will be our last for the year so as always we'll be taking a look back at some of the biggest stories of 2015.

Plus we'll have our annual super quiz to test yourself on too. Hope to see you then! Right that's it from me. Bye for now!