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Coming up on Behind the News:

The Zika virus has us all worried but should you be? We find out.

Open your wallet and say happy birthday because our money has just turned 50!

And meet the orangutans that love to play videogames.

Hello Nathan here. Thanks for joining us. Stay with us for all that and more but first.

Is the Gap Closing?

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: The Government has released its latest report on Closing the Gap. That's the name of a plan that aims to help Indigenous Australians to live as long as non-Indigenous Australians. But the report shows that it's not going very well. So what's the issue? Here's Matt. But first a warning to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers, this story contains images of people who've died.

Whether it's playing games like this one.

GIRL: I like playing at the river

Or diving for turtles.

BOY: I've got two.

These kids from Tabulam Public School in New South Wales love hanging out in the water. But while they're having fun, they're also staying active. And that's really important, especially for Indigenous kids.

BOY: It's really important to eat well and exercise and look after your body.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live 10 to 17 years less than other Australians. It's mainly because they are more likely to get preventable diseases like heart disease and diabetes.

GIRL: It makes me feel sad knowing that I may not live as long as some of my non-Indigenous friends in my class.

That's why the Close the Gap campaign was launched back in 2007 to improve the health of Indigenous Australians. State and federal governments teamed up to close the life expectancy gap by 2031, and to do something about the other gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Like helping more kids get to school, finish year 12, and find jobs. Every year since, the federal government's released a kind of report card about the progress they're making.

MALCOLM TURNBULL, PRIME MINISTER: With each report we have an opportunity to assess where we must redouble our efforts.

This time around, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced there have been improvements in some areas. The number of Indigenous Aussies dying at a really young age has gone down. And a lot more kids are graduating Year 12, but lots of other targets still aren't on track.

Many kids are falling behind in literacy and numeracy. Not enough are attending school regularly. Indigenous employment has dropped in a big way. And on average, Indigenous Australians still die about 10 years earlier than non-Indigenous Australians.

The government says it's still committed to meeting these targets and closing the gap. But many experts say not enough progress is being made. Some Aboriginal leaders think it's because governments aren't working closely enough with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

PATRICK DODSON: Closing the gap hasn't got a buy in from Indigenous communities.

Others say it's going to take time for Closing the Gap to get results.

MATILDA HOUSE: Let's not get in a panic because we think we're not there yet.

Back at Tabulam Public School these guys know how important closing the gap is for them.

KID: Close the Gap is a program for Aboriginal people to live a better life.

KID: It's very important to be healthy and look after yourself.

KID: Close the Gap to live a healthier life and to get a better education.

And while the latest Government report found there's still a long way to go, these guys are doing everything they can to help close the gap for good.

The Wire

INTRO: Okay time to take a quick look at some of the other headlines that got us talking this week. Here's the Wire.

Warren Truss, the leader of the National Party has announced his retirement from politics. The former bean farmer turned politician was also Australia's Deputy Prime Minister because of the Liberal and National Party's coalition.

Barnaby Joyce has taken over as the leader of the Nationals and as Deputy PM.

Two and a half years ago Calyn did something pretty incredible. He ran out into a busy street to push his little brother out of the way of an on-coming car.

BROTHER: Because he saved me, what'd he do because he pushed me over cos the car was coming.

And because of that heroic act Calyn's now been given the Brave Youth of the Year Award!

Unfortunately 9 year old Calyn still has a brain injury from the accident but he's learned how to walk again and is slowly learning how to talk again too.

And in Sydney another brave kid has helped save the city from Ultron Prime!

ANDREW SCIPIONE, NSW POLICE COMMISSIONER: Iron Boy we need your help. Make a Wish reporter Hope Joy has been kidnapped. Officers have confirmed that Clark Island has been overtaken by Ultron's henchmen and Hope Joy's been held captive.

Sydney's newest super hero, Iron Boy, quickly came to the rescue shutting down streets and drawing some pretty big crowds around the opera house for his final showdown! And most importantly he managed to save the day.

Iron Boy's true identity is Domenic and he's a nine year old with cystic fibrosis. And the day was all about making his wish of becoming Iron Boy come true.

Iron boy or not, some say Domenic's a hero every day of the week including the real Iron Man, Robert Downey Junior!

ROBERT DOWNEY JUNIOR: I just wanna wish you all the best, keep up the good work, and listen here, I don't do this very often, I am making you an honorary member of the Avengers. I hereby dub thee, because guess what, Iron Man loves you.

Zika Explained

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: For the past few weeks, the world has worried about the threat of the Zika virus. The World Health Organisation has declared it a global health emergency. And in the lead up to the Rio Olympic Games, Brazilian authorities are worried the virus might affect visitors and athletes. But now that a couple of cases have even travelled back to Australia so should we be worried about it here? Let's find out.

Brazil is known for its celebrations and in just over six months one of their biggest celebrations ever will kick off - the Olympic and Paralympic Games! But as the country gets ready to host, it's also on the lookout for a pest that could ruin the party.

They're normally known for their buzz and their bite, but these mozzies are carrying something much worse than a bit of an itch; they're carrying the Zika virus. Until recently, most people hadn't heard of it, but it's actually been around for years.

REPORTER: Scientists first stumbled on the virus back in 1947 in the Zika forest of Uganda, hence the name. They accidently discovered a monkey infected with it and a few years later they found the same virus in humans.

It turns out the virus could spread to people if they got bitten by an infected Aedus mosquito. When people get Zika they can end up with a fever, rash, sore joints and sometimes an eye infection. Symptoms can last from a couple of days to a week.

REPORTER: But hang on, scientists say no-one's ever died from the Zika virus and many people who are infected don't even realise they have it! So why after nearly 70 years has it become such a big deal?

Well over the years the virus has spread from Africa to parts of Asia and the Pacific, but last year it popped up in parts of South America, Central America and the Caribbean as well. Now, experts say the virus can be found in about 30 countries. In Brazil alone, thousands of people have already been infected and recently experts also started worrying the virus could be dangerous for pregnant women. If they catch it their babies could develop problems like smaller heads and smaller brains.

Researchers are still looking into that link, but just in case, the World Health Organisation has declared it a global health emergency to make sure everyone's aware of it and to try to stop it from spreading.

The mozzies capable of carrying Zika are found in many tropical areas around the world, even here in Australia in Far North Queensland. But the mozzies here aren't carrying the Zika virus and authorities are already working hard to keep their numbers down anyway. So even though a few people have come back here from overseas infected with Zika, experts say the virus is very unlikely to spread here.

Back in Brazil, officials are still spraying for mozzies and even handing out tens of thousands of cans of bug spray! But they say pregnant tourists should probably stay away just in case. Meanwhile, athletes are doing their best to stay focused on going for gold at the Olympics.

ALYSSA LAMPE, USA WRESTLER: It's kind of scary, but there's nothing really you can do, like if you get bit, you get bit.

It seems most people here aren't ready to let this virus spoil the buzz.

Quiz 1

Okay let's go to a mosquito guiz now.

What does 'mosquito' mean in Spanish?

Is it:

- Itchy bite
- Little fly

· Or buzzing bee

The answer - Little fly.

50 Years of Dollars

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Okay next up I want you take out your wallet look inside and wish all of the cash in there a big happy birthday because on the weekend our money turned 50! And to celebrate, we thought we'd take a look at how we ended up with them in the first place. Take a look.

SHOP ASSISTANT: Mornin', what can I do ye for?

SHOPPER: A pint of milk, 14 ounces of butter, and 2 pounds of flour please!

Back in the old days a trip to the shop could sound pretty complicated. That's because Australia used to have a completely different system of measuring things.

SHOP ASSISTANT: And where do you hail from?

SHOPPER: A few furlongs down high street, then 5 miles up Gilles Road.

On top of that we also had a different system for money!

SHOP ASSISTANT: That'll be 1 pound, 16 shillings and 11 pence.

The Australia pound, made up of pounds, shillings and pence, used to be Australia's official currency.

SHOPPER: Thank you! See you on the morrow.

Well, that was until this guy came along.

SONG DOLLAR BILL: In come the dollars, in come the cents, to replace the pounds and the shillings and the pence. So get prepared folks for when the coins begin to mix, on the 14th of February, 1966!

Ok so it wasn't all his idea. But Dollar Bill did have the job of convincing Australians that changing the Australian pound to the Australian dollar was a good idea. And in a lot of ways it was a pretty easy sell.

The Australian pound, based on the British pound, was created in 1910. Each pound was made up of 20 shillings and each shilling was equal to 12 pence. So you can probably imagine doing even simple sums with this complicated money could get a bit tricky.

DOLLAR BILL: Carry the 12, I mean the one. 3 and 7 and 1 make 11, carry 1. 3 ones are 3, that's 31 shillings, I mean one pound.

The decimal system was a much simpler option - 100 cents in every dollar. But there was another good reason to make the switch. By the early 1960s 95 per-cent of the world's population was using a decimal currency. So converting them to Australian pounds was a nightmare. But not everyone was in favour of the change.

Some people were used to using the old pound currency.

1966 AUSSIE: The only thing that's gonna cause trouble I think for the majority of people is trying to convert the dollars and cents into the currency we're used to.

But most people were happy with the idea. So the Government set up a period of two years where either currency could be used, making it a little easier for everyone to switch over.

SONG: The old money, gradually making way for the new!

On top of that the many people really liked the design of the new currency. Our coins were crafted with these images of Australian native animals and the notes reflected our culture and history. In fact, the main thing that people argued over was what to call the new currency!

There were more than 1000 suggestions, including the 'Austral', 'Oz', 'Boomer', 'Roo', 'Kanga', 'Emu', 'Koala', 'Digger', 'Zac', 'Kwid' and the 'Dinkum'. But in the end we picked the 'Dollar' which is probably a whole lot less confusing than this would have been.

SHOPPER: Hello, today I'll have 4 Kanga's worth of apples please!

SHOP ASSISTANT: Well they're on special, so you can take the lot for a dinkum and a digger!

Poll

Okay now still on the subject of our money some people say 50 years is actually the perfect time to get rid of one of our coins too. The 5c piece doesn't buy much these days so some people feel it's the perfect time to say goodbye to it.

But what do you think? Should the 5c coin be phased out? Head to our website to place your vote.

Now last week we asked you if Australia Day should be moved to a different date and most of you went with no. A big thanks to those who voted.

24 Million

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: On Tuesday morning, Australia's population will officially tick over 24 million people. It's a big milestone so we thought we'd use the occasion to find out how

Australia's population has grown in the past and whether it will continue to grow into the future.

If you're watching this, Congratulations! You now make up 0.00000416666666666666 per cent of the Australian population! And if you're really good at maths, you'll know that means Australia's population has hit 24 million.

MATT: YAY! PARTY TIME! 24 million People in Australia.

SOMEONE OFF CAMERA: Why are you dancing?

MATT: I don't know.

In fact, most people aren't actually celebrating. But even if it's not cause for a party, it's still a pretty big deal for our country. We'll get back to why in a moment, but first, let's look at the main reasons Australia's growing. And the most obvious one, babies!

REPORTER: A baby's born in Australia every minute and forty four seconds, so now. All we have to do is wait another minute and forty four seconds and there'll be another one. That's quite a long time to wait, actually. We might have to move on.

Another biggie is immigration and Australia has a long history of it. Lots of people came in the 1800s when the Gold Rush almost tripled the population. And later on the government encouraged people to move here to help build Australia. After the Second World War people were offered cheap or free tickets to Australia on ships and millions took up the offer.

ADVERTISEMENT: Dad's taking me to Australia; he says it's the best place for me to get on in life.

These days, lots of people still want to come to Australia. Some are allowed in every year to live, work, and study. And some are allowed to live here as refugees after escaping trouble in their home countries. But there is another reason our population keeps going up too. People are living longer than in the past. That means more people are being born each day than are dying.

It all adds up to a bigger Australia. And some people think that's great. More people means more businesses, more buying and selling and more building, and that keeps the economy growing. But there are some people with worries, too. As our population gets bigger, we'll need more land, more food and more water for everyone, and new infrastructure like roads and schools. And while Australia may be big, it's also the world's driest inhabited continent, so it's not as simple as filling up all this space with people.

REPORTER: That's another baby!

But our population won't be slowing down anytime soon. By 2043 we're tipped to reach 35 million. By then, you'll be 0.0000028571428571428573 per cent of the population. Sorry about that.

And it means we'll all have to get used to sharing a bit more of Australia. So maybe getting in the mood to celebrate can't hurt.

REPORTER: 24 million.

Quiz 2

Okay now for another question to test yourself on.

What is the population of the world right now?

- 700 million
- 2 billion
- Or 7 billion

The answer is 7 billion.

The Score

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

To soccer first and flares have become a massive issue in the A-league. Last week the Western Sydney Wanderers were fined 50 thousand dollars because some fans let off a bunch of flares in a game against Melbourne. They've been told if anything similar happens again in the next year they'll lose 3 A-league competition points.

Meanwhile Melbourne Victory are also facing disciplinary action after flares were set off in their latest match too.

And there was plenty of excitement at this year's NBA All-Star weekend Dunk Contest. Aaron Gordon thought he'd won with this outrageous effort.

COMMENTATOR: That's what I'm talking about!

But there was still more to come. In 1988 Michael Jordan made one of the most famous dunks of all time from the foul line and Zach LaVine decided to go one better!

There was also a celebrity 3-point challenge where NBA player Draemond Green took on movie star Kevin Hart who's more famous for being tiny than throwing 3 pointers but somehow the comedian equalled the pros' score!

COMMENTATOR: Owwww he got it!

Unfortunately the trophy already had Greens name on it and was specially made to be the same size as his opponent.

Orangutan Gamers

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Finally today, heaps of kids love getting into some gaming in their downtime. But did you know that some orangutans do too? Researchers at the Melbourne Zoo have designed some motion-controlled games specially for their primate patrons. And the results have been surprising.

This furry fellow is Malu. He's a 12 year old Sumatran orangutan that lives at the Melbourne Zoo. He and his family are part of a conservation plan, which aims to help protect their critically endangered species from going extinct, so it's important they're here.

But orangutans are highly intelligent and in captivity they can get a little bored, especially if you're a curious creature like Malu!. Last year the clever young ape escaped from his enclosure using a blanket and went on an adventure around the zoo, putting the whole place in lockdown.

DR SALLY SHERWIN, MELBOURNE ZOO: Because orangutans in the wild are solving problems every day, where to find food, what to eat, what not to eat, who to socialise with, who to avoid that particular day, where to find shelter, they're constantly using their brains and solving problems. In zoos, we give everything to them, everything that they need, so we need to come up with different ways that we can allow them to problem solve.

So what's the best way to keep a bored orangutan busy? Well researchers from Melbourne Uni reckon they have the answer - interactive computer games!

SARAH WEBBER, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE: So what we've done is we've put a projector outside of the enclosure and that projects an image into the orangutan's enclosure. And we've also got a body sensor, it's called a connect sensor. Some of you may've used it with the Microsoft 360.

This game's called Zap! It has a red dot that explodes when touched. The first time Malu used it he got it straight away, even if he did it his own way!

SARAH WEBBER, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE: So Malu went straight in there, kissing the red dot with his face, was not what we expected, we expected him to use his hand of course, or maybe his foot.

While another ape, called Kiani, did her own thing too! Researchers hope playing with games like this will keep the apes' brains active and give them an insight into the animals' personalities and even how they're feeling.

DR SALLY SHERWIN, MELBOURNE ZOO: They've each got unique personalities as well. So for example Malu might enjoy playing one game more than another, so we could give him the opportunity to use that.

Some people are worried about the idea of giving orangutans technology like ours, because it's something they'd never have in the wild. But researchers reckon it'll only make the orangutans happier by giving them more choice and they're already working on new games, even an 'Orangstagram' app so the apes can take pictures and post them!

SARAH WEBBER, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE: Things that orangutans love to look at is photos, particularly photos of themselves. So we're looking at using that as a way to motivate them to use some of these games that we give them.

In the future, zookeepers say they'll think about giving these guys control of lights, temperatures, even music in their enclosures. But for now, they seem pretty happy just monkeying around.

CLOSER

And that is us done for today! For more info on anything you've seen today please go to our website. There's heaps there for both teachers and kids. Right, that's it from me. See you next week!