

BtN: Episode 05 Transcript 08/03/16

Coming up on Behind the News:

We travel to America to take a closer look at the race for the Presidency.

Find out how kids lives have changed 5 years on from Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

And meet Harrison, the boy who received the world's best gift from his dad, a kidney.

Hi, my name is Nathan. Thanks for joining me for BtN. All that and more coming up soon but first let's kick off the show with a look at some of the biggest stories that got people talking this week.

The Wire

The clean-up is continuing in Fiji after Cyclone Winston lashed the country a few weeks ago. Kids like 12 year old Unaisi say it was a pretty terrifying experience.

UNAISI TANUKU: Debris was flying everywhere and everything was falling apart around us.

Nations around the world including Australia have been sending aid to the battered country.

And over the weekend Aussies pledged more than 1.4 million dollars of their own money to support the Fijian people too.

UNAISI TANUKU: It makes our confidence stronger, helps us to look after each other, and share our love with everyone.

Indigenous leader Pat Dodson has become a Senator for the Labor Party. He's campaigned for and represented indigenous people and says becoming a politician will help him do that.

PAT DODSON: It is now time for me to step to the plate and have a go at trying to influence those same conversations, debates and public policies, from the inside as a member of the Senate and representing Western Australia.

He's moved into the job as a replacement for retiring Senator Joe Bullock.

And US astronaut Scott Kelly has arrived back on Earth after almost a year in space!

Over the past 340 days he's celebrated Halloween, played pranks and even chatted with the US President.

OBAMA (ON PHONE): We've been following you're Instagram feed down here and it's spectacular.

His long stint at the International Space Station was part of an experiment to see how our bodies change in space. He says he loved his time in space but he's also happy to be home.

SCOTT KELLY: Cold air was amazing, you know, fresh air. I don't mean to say it's not fresh on the Space Station but there's nothing like new, cold air coming into the capsule.

Picking a President

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Okay next we're heading to the US where everyone is talking about who might be the next leader of the country. Their process is heaps longer than ours and involves lots of little votes to work out the candidates, then one big vote to decide who gets to be president. Over the past week we've gotten a clearer picture of what's going on so we thought we should let you know what's going on too.

Everything comes to an end. A packet of biscuits. The last Hobbit movie, eventually. Even being President of the United States. Sorry Obama. See, he's been in the job for two terms or eight years. And after that time, America's Constitution says you can't be elected again.

No matter how good you are at singing, dancing, or basketball. That is a sweet jump shot. While none of our Prime Ministers can claim the same sporting prowess, there aren't any rules that would, hypothetically, stop them being PM forever and ever. Although if the past few years are anything to go by that's never going to be a problem

Anyway, that means America has to find a new President this year. And while the Presidential election will take place in November, before that, people have to vote on who should represent the two main parties.

The two teams lining up for the candidacy race in America are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. And within them are heaps of candidates hoping to get the support of their parties. It's a long, tough race, as candidates travel around the country giving speeches, meeting people and running ads about themselves. And along the way, it can look like one candidate's pulling ahead only to end up at the back of the pack.

At this stage each party has a clear frontrunner. First up, from the Democratic Party it's Hillary Clinton. She's been a powerful polmie for a long time, and is married to a former president, Bill Clinton. She's big on women's rights, health care, and education.

If elected, she'll make history as the first woman to take the top job! For the Republican Party, the favourite to win is Donald Trump.

DONALD TRUMP: You're fired. Ok. Go!

Up until this election, he was mostly known for being a reality TV star.

CONTESTANT: If you want to fire me, go right ahead.

DONALD TRUMP: You're fired.

And having lots and lots of money.

DONALD TRUMP: I'm really rich.

Trump's been getting a lot of attention for saying some very controversial things, like his plan to build a wall between the US and Mexico to stop illegal immigrants from getting in.

DONALD TRUMP: I would build a great wall and nobody builds better walls than me, believe me.

He's divided a lot of voters with his strong opinions on other issues, like gun control and the death penalty. But he's won over a lot, too. At this stage, the candidacy race isn't over for either the Republican or Democratic parties. So these two frontrunners may still be passed before we hit the finish line.

But it's worth remembering that whoever ends up winning this race has really just won a shot to do it all again in November.

Poll

And while we're still on the subject - let's all pretend we're all American for this week's poll. If the American election were being held now, who would you vote for?

Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump.

Let us know what you think on our website.

Now to last week's poll results. We asked you if you agreed with the changes the government wants to make to how we vote for senators. And most of you went with yes! Thanks for voting!

Disaster Anniversary

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: On the 11th of March five years ago a disaster of unimaginable size hit Japan. First, a huge earthquake rocked the country. Then a massive tsunami swept the north-east coast. And finally, that wave caused a huge meltdown at one of

Japan's nuclear power stations. Together those events changed the lives of tens of thousands of Japanese kids. Leah, from English kids news show Newsround, went to meet some of them.

LEAH: Tokyo. It's a fast moving city that never sleeps. Home to millions of people.

It's also a place where earthquakes are a way of life. But on the eleventh of March, 2011, the country was struck by one of the most powerful quakes in years.

NEWS REPORT: The quake struck in the middle of the working day.

NEWS REPORT: On Newsround there's only one story. The massive earthquake that's hit Japan.

Just before three in the afternoon one of the most powerful quakes on record hit north-eastern Japan. But something more devastating was on its way.

NEWS REPORT: These are the rather shocking and amazing pictures that are coming into us now live from the state broadcaster.

LEAH: The earthquake triggered a tsunami right out at sea and half an hour later a ten metre high wave slammed into the coast, destroying everything in its path, including the town of Ishinomaki.

Ishinomaki was one of the many coastal towns along the northeast of the country badly hit by the tsunami.

Today, in Ishinomaki life is returning to normal. But one girl who will never forget what happened that day is Hanako.

HANAKO: I was sitting somewhere around here when we felt the quake. At first I didn't think it would be that big. But soon I realised it would be huge. It was shocking to see the seats of swings floating in the water, rising up high enough to cover the whole slide. I wondered if I was outside at this very moment what would happen to me.

LEAH: Hanako this was where your home used to be. Can you tell us what happened to it?

HANAKO: Ever since I was born I lived in this house with my mum, dad, and big sister. She was alone at home when the tsunami hit the house. She ran to our neighbour and saw a car being washed away by the tsunami. She insisted she never wanted to live around here again. My school friends helped me after the difficult times following the tsunami. I have many friends now, I feel very lucky.

LEAH: It's great to see children like Hanako back in the classroom with friends supporting one another. But there's a town not too far away from here that's thought to be too dangerous for anyone to live.

This is Tomioka town. Just look around, it's deserted. Shop fronts were completely destroyed, cars overturned and the reason people don't live here anymore is

because of something called radiation. It leaked from the nuclear power station just a few kilometres from here. It was after the building was hit by a powerful wave.

After the accident, Japan's government moved everyone living within a few miles of the plant and closed it down.

LEAH: It's playtime here in Koriyama city. It's a two hour drive from the nuclear plant. This place was built a year after the disaster. It's a chance to give children a safe environment to play and also to have loads of fun. Fear of radiation means many parents prefer their children to play indoors. That means most of the children here have no idea what it's like to play outside in the fresh air.

GIRL: The sea of radiation isn't completely gone. We have less opportunity to play outside compared to before the disaster.

GIRL 2: And when we were stuck indoors, we were all getting angry and arguing a lot. We can now go outside more. That's made us closer and better friends.

LEAH: What happened that day, the destruction that it brought, will stay with the people of Japan forever. Natural disasters will always be a part of life for children here, but I've witnessed their strength and determination to get back to normal.

Kidney Week

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Later this week is World Kidney Day. It's all about raising awareness about the vital work our kidneys do and what can go wrong with them. We've asked 8-year old Harrison to report on the subject because he knows more about kidneys than the average kid. He was given one by his dad and it's changed his life.

HARRISON: Hi BtN, my name's Harrison, I'm eight years old and I want to tell you about my life!

One of my favourite things is Star Wars! I love my mum and dad and my little sisters!

HARRISON: This is my sister Chloe.

CHLOE: Hi!

HARRISON: This is my best friend Will. What do you think of me mate? Be honest.

WILL: You're weird and you're my best friend!

HARRISON: That's very confusing!

I also like going to school. But for a while I couldn't go because I was too sick.

HARRISON: When I was born, I was born with only 15 per cent kidney function.

Most people have two kidneys. They're really important. They filter everything we eat and drink. Keeping the good stuff and getting rid of the rest, which ends up here! They also make sure our body has enough water and they make chemicals that help keep our body working.

People can survive with only one kidney, but last year my only working kidney stopped working at all. I had to go on dialysis. That means I had to be hooked up to a machine in hospital three days a week; it did what my kidney couldn't do anymore. I missed a lot of school and couldn't go swimming or play sport and I couldn't eat yummy foods like chocolate!

HARRISON: But what I did was I read books, I had the hospital school teacher come and I watched Jurassic Park and lots of other good movies and also I kept myself busy by talking to the other dialysis people.

But then something happened that changed everything - my dad gave me one of his kidneys!

HARRISON'S DAD: We did all of the tests and discovered that I was a match, my blood, our DNA, a bunch of other things and the doctors said that my kidney would work perfectly in your body.

The doctors took my dad's kidney out and put it in me, which is called a transplant. It wasn't easy and I had to spend two weeks in hospital after.

HARRISON: This is the scar I got - 12cm. Mum measured it with a ruler!

But it worked and now my dad is my biggest hero! My dad's the best!

Now I have to have special check-ups and take special medicine. It stops my body from trying to get rid of my dad's kidney because it knows it isn't mine.

HARRISON: I feel much better now after my transplant and I'm not on dialysis anymore, and I get to eat all the yummy things that I wasn't allowed to eat before.

Now thanks to my dad I can do everything other kids can do too!

HARRISON: We all play around and play dodgeball and stuff at recess and lunch.

I also got out of hospital in time to see the new Star Wars movie! I'll always remember how lucky I am to be alive and how hard my new kidney is working to keep me that way.

Quiz

Okay let's test you with a kidney quiz now.

Which of the following things helps your kidneys work better?

- Eating lollies

- Drinking more water
- Massaging them

The answer is drinking more water

Turtle Troubles

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Can you imagine if the temperature decided whether you were born a girl or a boy? Well that's exactly what happens with turtles. But experts are now worried that rising temperatures could cause havoc for turtle populations by creating too many girls.

It's an epic journey across deserts, seas, and beaches all to dig for buried treasure. Well, less treasure, and more turtle eggs. And these guys are less pirates and more scientists. They've come to the Lacapede Islands in Western Australia to find out more about turtles and how climate change will affect their future.

BLAIR BENTLEY, ANIMAL BIOLOGIST: We go out into the Kimberley and collect eggs from nesting females, we then bring those eggs back which is not quite as trivial as it sounds. We bring them back to UWA to incubate them at constant temperatures to find out the switch point, where they switch from male to females.

Yep, you heard that right. At certain temperatures these eggs switch from having males in them to females! See, for humans and other mammals, whether you're born a boy or girl is decided by what genes you have. But for some reptiles like turtles, it's actually caused by how hot or cold your egg gets!

For many turtles, if the sand's warmer than 29 degrees, it'll be mostly girls. If it's any cooler, it'll mostly be boys. The problem is temperatures around the world are going up, and that means too many girl turtles will be hatching!

BLAIR BENTLEY, ANIMAL BIOLOGIST: If it keeps getting warmer there are going to be more females being produced, and over time the males will keep dying at a greater rate than they are being replenished, so it's what's we call demographic collapse.

And while scientists say it's not going to happen overnight, we might have to be prepared for it to happen eventually.

NICKI MITCHELL, UWA: I don't think turtle populations are at risk of becoming extinct any time soon, because they live for a very long time, potentially 120 years. So the change is going to be slow. But the point is climate change is going to be rapid compared to what turtles have experienced in the past.

Having a whole heap of girl turtles isn't the only problem that could come out of warmer weather. If beaches gets too hot, baby turtles might not be able to survive in the hot sand at all! So what's the answer?

MATT HOLBROOK, REPORTER: Well, one solution isn't so different to what we do to keep cool at the beach: adding a bit of shade! Shade cloths are already being used overseas to help keep the sand cool for baby turtles. Now if only we could make millions of tiny turtle hats.

But while there are no easy answers, hopefully more of these little hatchlings can still look forward to a happy future even if they have a few setbacks along the way.

Quiz 2

Okay that brings us to another quiz question.

Are turtles

- Cold blooded
- Warm blooded
- Or neither, they don't have blood

The answer is they're cold blooded.

The Score

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

The Perth Wildcats have been crowned NBL champs for a record seventh time! They beat the New Zealand Breakers by 23 points in game 3. The Kiwis struggled to get into the game and were punished by some big baskets from Casey Prather.

For the first time ever a team of refugee athletes will compete at the Olympic Games.

THOMAS BACH, IOC PRESIDENT: These refugee athletes have no national team to belong to. They have no flag to march behind. They have no national anthem to be played.

The International Olympic Committee reckons that's not fair so it's created a special team for them at the Rio games later this year.

Between five and ten athletes will make the final team which will be announced in June.

And in Brazil some super cute ball boys and girls turned up for an exhibition tennis match or should we say ball dogs!

They did a pretty good job of fetching the balls although they didn't always give them back and when they did they came back with just a little bit of slobber!

Schools Cleanup Day

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: This year marks the 25th year of Schools Clean Up Day. It's all about encouraging kids to clean up the trash left around them. We went along to one veteran Clean Up Day school to find out how rubbish can cause so many issues.

Hats, sunscreen and giant bin bags? It's a *bit* of an unusual look for school kids, but it's all for a good cause.

CARL: Adelaide, what are we doing today?

KID: We're picking up rubbish for Clean Up Australia Day.

KID: It's important to pick rubbish up because it is tidy for the school, and if it blows over into the ocean, some fish could swallow it and they could suffocate.

KID: I think this is like my second time doing this.

CARL: And are you used to wearing your high vis and your gloves and everything out in the schoolyard?

KID: No not really.

CARL: Why not?

KID: Because we usually don't do it that often!

Around the country, thousands of kids like these guys have been out rummaging through local neighbourhoods, poking through creeks, sweeping native bushland and scouring their playgrounds.

All as part of the Schools Clean Up Day.

KID: We go to the school and sometimes we go down the beach.

KID: It's fun, it's enjoyable, you get fresh air, you get to go outside and makes Australia look beautiful

KID: we take a bag, sometimes t-shirts and vests, tongs and buckets and yeah!

And 2016 marks a big anniversary for the event. It's the 25th year schools have been pitching in to help keep our streets clean and tidy.

OLD TV commercial, IAN KEIRNAN: If we all get together and lend a hand, we can really make a difference. Come on Max, let's go.

Schools Clean Up Day is an offshoot of Clean Up Australia Day, a program that this guy started way back in 1989.

IAN KIERNAN: Look Australians really do care about this and are prepared to do something about it. Why don't we see if we can do a national event, a Clean Up Australia Day. And we did it, and it was a huge success and continues to be.

40,000 volunteers turned up to help him in that first year, and from there the idea spread pretty quickly. Now it's the biggest community-based environmental event in Australia, and it's even travelled overseas, with an estimated 40 million people helping out across 130 countries!

The first Schools Clean Up Day was in 1992. And since then, kids from nearly 50,000 schools around Australia have collected a massive amount of rubbish! About 3,400 ute loads in fact! But there's still plenty of trash to pick up, and these guys know just how important it can be to throw something in the bin.

CARL: How can something like this hurt the environment, or hurt an animal?

KID: Well it could go down the drains or like the wind could blow it into the sea, and then big animals could swallow it and die.

And just a little bit of hard work can make a big difference.

CARL: When you were walking around the school yard, did it feel like there was this much there? Well not really. Why not?

KID: Well because it was hidden under stuff or behind stuff

KID: Why don't you all come together, pick up some rubbish, to make Australia nice and tidy, and then everything will be safe and stuff like that.

CLOSER

And that's it from us!

See you next week!