# BtN: Episode 07 Transcript 22/03/16

Coming up on Behind the News:

The small threat having a big effect on the health of our oceans.

The secret lair hiding some very unexpected treasure.

And meet Madeline the girl who encouraged her whole school to help kids with cancer.

Hi my name is Nathan. Thanks for joining me for BtN.

All that and more coming up soon.

#### The Wire

But first there was a big political announcement just made by the PM. Let's take a look at that and more in the Wire.

The Prime Minister has flagged the possibility of calling an early election on July the 2nd. Malcolm Turnbull says that if the Senate refuses to pass his government's union corruption bills for the second time, he will call a double dissolution election.

The PM has also announced he's bringing back both houses of parliament early. And the budget will also be released a week early on May 3rd to make sure there is time to fit it all in.

The announcement came after some crazy scenes in the Senate last week. It spent 28 straight hours debating changes to senate voting laws among other things. Senator Nick Xenophon even wore his PJ's to the Senate chamber.

Eventually the changes were approved. They'll make it more difficult for candidates with only a small number of votes to be elected to the Senate.

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver says Australia should do what the UK's doing and put a tax on sugary drinks. In two years' time drinks containing more than five grams of sugar per 100 mills will cost more to buy there. That includes a lot of popular soft drinks. Health officials reckon it'll help to cut down on childhood obesity.

And what would you call this new \$380 million dollar polar research ship? Well, how about the Boaty McBoatFace? Well that was the winner in an online poll run by the Natural Environment Research Council in the UK.

While there were a few serious suggestions, Boaty McBoatFace was way out in front when the competition closed although it hasn't actually been confirmed if it will get the nod.

#### **Double Dissolution**

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: Now as you heard at the start of the wire the PM has announced that an early double dissolution election is on the cards. But what is that? Let's take a look.

MATT: Can I?

AMELIA: No.

MATT: What about?

AMELIA: No, Sorry. I really need them all.

Most of the time not getting your own way isn't that big of a deal.

MATT: ... I mean that's OK, I didn't really want one anyway.

But this is one place where it really can matter: Parliament. See, if the government wants to introduce new laws. It has to get approval from both the House of Reps and the Senate. The first one's not usually a problem because that's where government has a majority.

But it can be a different story in the Senate. It's common for the government not to have a majority there, so if the Senate says no to one of the government's ideas, and keeps disagreeing, it can leave the country in one big stalemate, and that's not a good look. So in situations like this, the government is given one big power to break the deadlock. It's called a double dissolution.

[deep serious voice] Double Dissolution Who said that?

Anyway, a double dissolution means both the senate and the House of Representatives are dissolved. Everyone gets chucked out and we have to hold a new election to vote for every position all over again.

It's a pretty big deal, so a double dissolution is only allowed to happen if the Senate rejects the same bill twice in parliament.

MATT HOLBROOK: If that happens, it's known as a "trigger". That's Tigger. The government needs both a trigger and approval from the Governor-General for there to be a double dissolution.

There have been a few double dissolutions in our country's history. The last one was nearly 30 years ago over the introduction of a national ID card. But after the election,

the government failed to get it through yet again, so they gave up on it. Most of the time a double dissolution.

[deep serious voice] Double Dissolution

Is used by the government to call an early election, get rid of a Senate it's having problems with. Or both.

That's the situation at the moment, the government's got a trigger because the senate blocked one of its bills for the second time. And a double dissolution would give the government the chance to get a couple more of its own people into the senate when all positions are put up for grabs. Not everyone agrees it's a good idea, though.

Some Senators reckon it's not okay because they say they were fairly elected and should have many years left in their positions. They say that if the government goes ahead with it it's just to try to become more powerful. But the government says that it's just focused on passing the laws it feels are important. And if it can't do that with the Senate as it is now, then it's happy to take it to the people.

Regardless of whether we end up seeing a double dissolution or not, we can all agree some things are worth fighting for or at least asking really nicely for.

Amelia, can I have a donut please? Okay. Yeeeeeahhhhhh

MATT: Donut man, he's a donut! Donut maaaannn!

## Microplastic Oceans

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Okay Tuesday the 22nd of March is World Water Day. So next up we're going to take a closer look at a threat to our oceans that you might not have heard of before. We've all visited the beach and seen heaps of rubbish lying around. But scientists say there's also trash there that we can't see. It's called microplastics.

Come to a place like this and you'll see loads and loads of rubbish.

CARL: But it could be the trash you haven't seen that's causing the biggest problems.

CARL: Those little bright flecks you can see down there are called microplastic and researchers say this miniature rubbish is causing some major problems.

Microplastics can form when bigger bits of plastic break down into smaller bits. They can even break off our clothes when we wash them! But some companies actually make them too. You probably have some microbeads at home right now in your scrubs or shampoos.

CARL: In fact scientists reckon there are about 300,000 of them in the average bottle of face scrub!

CARL: 300-thousand in a bottle!?

CARL: Yep, and even some toothpastes have plastic microbeads in them too!

Scientists say these microplastics are becoming a really big issue, especially in our oceans.

DR MARK A BROWNE: It is a huge problem. So if you look at the amount of plastic in the environment, over 85% of that is microplastic.

In case you missed that, he said 85 per-cent of plastic in our environment is tiny bits of microplastic! That's really bad news especially for marine animals because those little flecks look a lot like food to them!

Just imagine sitting down for lunch and munching away, only to realise a bunch of what you're eating isn't really food. It's the same colour the same size and it looks a whole lot like the regular food you might eat! But it's actually plastic! That's basically what's happening to creatures that see microplastic floating in our oceans. It can get stuck in their stomach making it harder for them to digest food.

Another big problem is that plastic often has dangerous chemicals in it and they can seep into the animal's body. This not only causes issues for them, but can also be a real danger for the animals that eat them - including humans!

CARL: Unlike other rubbish, microplastic is just too small to get filtered out in water treatment plants like this one, and that means they just end up floating straight out to sea.

So, many people reckon the best way to stop them is just to get rid of them altogether. And in the US that's exactly what they've decided to do!

NEWS READER: President Obama signed a bipartisan bill to phase out microbeads...

Here in Australia our two major supermarkets say they won't stock any products with microbeads past the end of 2017 and the government and scientists are looking for ways to tackle the problem too.

But for those who still like the idea of having little beads like these to wash your face with, many cosmetics companies are now looking at natural biodegradable solutions, things like seeds or other small bits of rough material.

There's still a long way to go, but the fight against this almost invisible enemy has well and truly begun.

### #BehindYou

Now last week was the National Day of Action Against Bullying. And to mark the date we asked all of you to send in videos sharing how your school is standing up against bullying. We got heaps of brilliant videos back so thanks to all of you that got involved. Here's a quick look at just a few of them.

Thanks again to all of the schools that sent in videos and pledged to be behind those experiencing bullying.

#### Poll

Now obviously a lot is being done to try to stop bullying but that doesn't mean it still doesn't happen. So that's what we wanted to ask you about in our poll this week.

The question: Have you ever felt bullied? Let us know on our website.

#### Seedbank

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Okay banks normally look after money. But have you ever heard of a bank that looks after seeds? Well there's one hidden deep in the Arctic that's designed to store seeds from all around the world. But why? Well, here's a clue. It's also known as the Doomsday Vault!

Deep in the Arctic, on the very edge of civilisation you can spot the tip of a building that looks like something straight out of a spy movie. It's known as the Doomsday Vault!

Despite the name, there aren't any nuclear weapons or bad guys with cats hiding away here. The vault was actually built to protect the world's most precious produce from destruction - plants!

Deep in the mountain, there are 865 thousand types of crop seeds. That includes seeds to grow wheat, barley, potatoes and almost 150 thousand types of rice! They're stored at freezing temperatures, which kind of freezes them in time so the seeds can still grow into plants centuries later.

Scientists say the vault is super important for a few reasons. Many useful kinds of plants aren't being grown by farmers anymore and are becoming rare. Other plants could be wiped out by natural disasters, outbreaks of disease, climate change or even war.

REPORTER: That could leave people without the plants or seeds they need to grow food. So scientists reckon tucking a few of these little things away now, could end up being really handy in the future, especially if anything bad happens on earth.

Storing seeds is actually something that's been done for a while now. Right around the world seed banks have been working together to collect and store as many plant species as possible. There's even seed banks in Australia full of thousands of native plants, but no other vaults are quite like this one. The crop seeds here come from nearly every corner of the globe.

RESEARCHER: Brazil, Mexico, India, Zimbabwe, Azerbaijan...

REPORTER: Here in Australia alone, we have more than 20 thousand different species of native plants, like the gum tree. So if a native species like this was to be wiped out, they wouldn't be found anywhere else in the world.

That's why 11 thousand Aussie seeds are stored in the Doomsday Vault. The US and Japan have also just added more of their seeds to the mix.

RESEARCHER: It also shows the true global nature of the seed vault. When you're in the vault, politics don't matter. What matters is keeping the seeds safe.

To keep any potential bad guys out, the vault is kept secure at all times. Although it's mainly just polar bears or Arctic foxes hanging about out here!

RESEARCHER 2: So we have all this alarm if someone is trying to break in or something, but that has never happened, I can't imagine anyone is trying to break into the vault. We don't have that type of crime up here.

Countries, including Australia, are planning to keep adding to the collection, so the Doomsday Vault can keep saving the world one seed at a time.

#### Quiz

Okay let's test you with a quiz now. How much does the world's largest seeds weigh?

- 800g
- 8kg
- Or 18kg

The answer: 18kg

# **Food Origins**

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Now, a new study has found that many Aussie kids don't actually know where their food comes from. It's got experts worried that kids aren't being taught enough about the natural foods that make up a healthy diet. Let's take a look.

Welcome to 'What's On Your Plate?' Contestants, can you name where these foods come from? How about where these fruits and veggies grow? If you found some of those a bit tricky, you're not alone!

A new survey has found that quite a few Aussie kids are confused about how their food starts out! It quizzed more than a thousand primary school kids on their fresh food knowledge. Most kids thought it was pretty obvious that eggs come from a hen, and milk comes from a cow. But around one out of four kids didn't know that cow's

milk is also used to make butter and cheese, and almost one out of three didn't know that tomatoes grow on vines.

The results didn't get better when it came to cooking skills. Many parents thought their kids wouldn't know how to bake a potato or boil an egg.

Experts say these results aren't good, because kids could be getting into bad habits early on. They reckon people who understand their food and where it comes from are more likely to make healthy eating choices like picking a fresh option over a packaged one.

That's why, at some schools, kids are getting a head-start in the kitchen and the garden!

REPORTER: Tell me about all the plants you're growing... what's happening here?

KID 1: So here we've got beetroot growing and we've got some eggplant as well, over there.

REPORTER: That's massive, it's growing well!

KID 1: Yeah it is.

Kitchen Garden programs like this one teach kids how to grow and harvest their own food.

KID 1: So we have to buy the seeds and then we have to get the dirt and then we plant them and we have to water them.

Everything they grow here ends up here! Where they learn to prepare their produce in all sorts of ways. These kids say it's lots of fun and they're learning skills that'll help them stay healthy now and in the future.

KID 2: I reckon for me, it's the cooking. I like chopping up all the food and making it into salads.

KID 3: I think it helps kids to eat healthy cause it's like from the garden and it's fun.

And when it comes to what's on their plate; these guys know the answers.

KID 1: Most people, when they see an apple, they'll just eat it, but we know that it's been grown in an orchard and it's gone through a seed to an apple on a tree.

KID 3: I think it's made me appreciate more fresh foods from the garden because we put a lot of work into all the food that comes from the garden.

Plus, they're trying things they never tried before!

KID 2: Eggplant!

KID 5: Sushi!

KID 4: I never liked carrot, but when I started planting I just kind of fell in love with carrots!

#### The Score

Right it's sport time now.

Here's some of the biggest moments from this week.

Nico Rosberg has taken out the Aussie Grand Prix with Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton in 2nd place. It was an action packed weekend. Fernando Alonso was involved in this massive crash taking out Esteban Gutierrez in the process.

Luckily both drivers were okay and Gutierrez even gave Alonso a bit of a hug afterwards. Aussie star Daniel Ricciardo finished in 4th just missing out on a spot on the podium.

Thousands of people headed to Bathurst Island over the weekend for the Tiwi Islands Aussie Rules Grand Final. It's a massive event for local teams and a big celebration of local culture.

First up Bathurst and Melville Islands played in the women's match. Before the Muluwurri Magpies won in the men's beating the reigning champs the Buffaloes by 12 points.

Over in Canada a 17 year old hockey goalie has scored from the opposite side of the rink helping his team to a spot in the playoffs! And it seems like the only person more excited than the goalie was the commentator.

COMMENTATOR: Looking for the empty net. Rolling! Rolling! He Scores! Stewart Skinner! Unbelievable! Stewart Skinner has a Goal!

And fancy celebrations are a big part of playing soccer. But now English player Michail Antonio has spent some time showing the next generation what it takes to be a goal scoring superstar.

MICHAIL ANTONIO: Alright guys we're going to get dirty, we're doing the Homer run. Running around he's got it! Let me help you. Ahhhhh!

Let's hope they put as much time into training as they put into learning these celebrations.

#### Kare Kits

Rookie Reporter: Madeline

INTRO: Finally today to a very special story from the US. After watching her aunt fight cancer, Rookie Reporter Madeline decided she wanted to do something to help

kids in a similar situation so she came up with Kare Kits 4 Kids, bags filled with special gifts for young people going through chemotherapy.

MADELINE: I'm Madeline and today I'm going to tell you about my story about the chemo care kits for kids. It's an idea I came up with after my aunty died of cancer last year. I really wanted to help kids who are fighting cancer!

We have girl kits for girls and boy kits for boys. And what they are is they're kits for kids going through chemotherapy and cancer, and they have comfort items in them like soft socks, blankets, etc, they have activity items like colouring books, crayons, coloured pencils and they have things to help with their side effects.

I wanted to start a service project on kids with cancer so I wanted to make them happy cos I know all kids I know just want to be happy, be with friends, play, so I wanted to make little kits to make them feel happy.

No one deserves to be sick in their life, no one deserves that, we only have one life and we want to make them happy. So I thought my school, Stanton Elementary in St Louis, Missouri might be able to help. I talked to my principal and classmates and asked them to lend a hand. Everyone's excited to making kare kits to help kids in hospital.

I was surprised! Like there was already like a few donations in on the first day and I was like really surprised. And all the stuff they brought in we have enough for 50 kits now, and that's with like five activity items, five for each kit, so I'm really surprised and happy they brought them in

PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE: She knew exactly what she wanted to do, and we knew with her leading this project it would absolutely become as big as it did!

ELIJAH STEVENS (CLASSMATE): It's important to help people because if you got diagnosed with cancer, you would want people to help you, and help you go through the tough times of going through cancer.

ELIJAH STEVENS: They're gonna make them happy, I think because a lot of kids only have to sit in bed and wait, sleep, wait - so I think these kits we're going to send them, it's going to help because they can have something to do with while they're waiting.

MADELINE: With their help, and lots of hard work, I've been able to set up my own organisation named after my aunt - Katie-Do Kare Kits 4 Kids.

We've even started delivering them to kids! So today we're going to deliver them to the St Louis Children's Hospital, so yeah!

HOSPITAL STAFF: I love how you did all ages, because we have kids come here from little babies to like seniors and high school. So what gave you the idea to do this?

MADELINE: Um when my aunt died of cancer, I wanted to help other people, especially kids, because I didn't want them to grow up going through it and I wanted to make them happy.

HOSPITAL STAFF: Well it's definitely going to put a smile on their faces!

I'm so proud of what I've been able to do, knowing that the kids are going to be so happy makes me so happy.

MADELINE: The advice that I would give kids wanting to help others is to keep following your heart. No project is too big or too small even if you get one donation that is awesome and know that you are helping someone in need.

## **CLOSER**

And that's us done for today!

For more info on anything you've seen today including the full videos from our #behindyou campaign please head to our website.

Right that's it from me. See you next week!