

# BtN: Episode 08 Transcript 29/03/16

Coming up on Behind the News:

We find out why an early election is now on the table.

Go diving to discover what's got the Great Barrier Reef looking a lot less colourful.

And how these kids' uniforms are helping to make the world a better place.

Hi my name is Nathan and thanks for joining me for BtN.

All that and more coming up soon.

## The Wire

But first to Europe where the country of Belgium has been hit by two separate terrorist attacks.

Here's everything you need to know about it in a special edition of the Wire.

It was around 8 o'clock in the morning in Brussels, the capital city of Belgium, when explosions rocked the international airport and nearby train station.

31 people died and many others were hurt. The terrorist group Islamic State says it was responsible. It's the same group that carried out the attacks in Paris last year, which killed 130 people.

Police and counter-terrorism officers quickly swung into gear carrying out raids all over Brussels and arresting many people. Intelligence groups across Europe also lent a hand and they've promised to work more closely in the future to try to stop this kind of attack from happening again.

Many world leaders offered their support too.

**MALCOLM TURNBULL, AUSTRALIAN PM:** The Belgium people have our thoughts, our prayers and our resolute solidarity in this battle against terrorism.

**DAVID CAMERON, UK PM:** We need to stand together against these appalling terrorists and make sure they never win.

**BARACK OBAMA, US PRESIDENT:** We stand in solidarity with them in condemning these recent attacks against innocent people.

This primary school is just metres away from the airport that was hit in the attacks.

**Yousra (Dutch girl):** My father works at the airport. I wondered what to do. I asked my mother if everything was okay, she said he was okay. So that made me happy.

Wissal (Dutch girl): There are no planes flying around anymore and that is strange, because usually there are planes morning, afternoon and evening. And now all of a sudden it stopped, we don't hear any planes anymore.

Louis (Dutch boy): It feels good but also weird to come to school. Usually we chat about what we've been up to. But today we asked: have you heard about the attacks.

Samir (Dutch boy): Even if something happened, it didn't happen in school and not with me nor my classmates, and that is good.

Around the world landmarks were lit up in black, yellow and red - the colours of the Belgium flag. And people lit candles and laid flowers not just on the streets of Brussels, but as far away as Russia and even here in Australia.

There were also a lot of tributes posted on social media. All different ways that people all over the world showed support for the people of Belgium during a really difficult time.

Now that is obviously a really scary story. So if it's left you feeling overwhelmed please head to our website and click on the upsetting news page. We've got heaps of stuff there that can help.

## Union Explainer

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

*INTRO: Okay now back to Australia and last week the Prime Minister announced he is willing to dissolve both houses of parliament and go to an early election over the issue of union corruption. It's a pretty dramatic thing to do. So what is a union and why is the PM willing to fight an election over them?*

Getting a good job in a good workplace is something a lot of people want!

But what makes a workplace good? Well for a lot of people it's things like normal work hours, safe working conditions, and fair pay. But, back in the old days, things were often pretty different. Workers could be made to work really long hours, in sometimes dangerous conditions, and people weren't always paid fairly. If a worker complained or quit they could easily be replaced! So some decided to band together to force employers to listen to them and make changes, and that's how unions came about.

Over the years, trade or labour unions have helped bring about things like a minimum wage, rules about safety and 8-hour work days. Unions have also fought so workers can get lunchbreaks, time off if they're sick and maternity leave, and they've helped set rules to make sure companies can't make kids work, can't discriminate against anyone, and have to pay women as much as men.

So unions have made a pretty big name for themselves over the years, but some people are worried that some unions have become way too powerful. Recently, a big investigation looked into whether some top union officials might've been bullying

businesses into doing what they want. There were also worries that some dodgy deals were being made and union money was being spent on the wrong stuff.

Now, the PM's been trying to bring in new laws which would mean bigger punishments for unions caught doing the wrong thing and the creation of a group that would have the job of keeping a close eye on them. Unions reckon both laws are a bad idea, because they say the laws would make it harder for them to look out for workers, and take away their power to get companies to change when they need to.

But the PM has now issued an ultimatum! He says the issue is so important to him that if he doesn't get enough support in parliament to pass the union laws he'll call an early election over it.

MALCOLM TURNBULL, PM: If they don't want to pass the ABCC bills, then they should resolve to reject them and then the decision will be left to the Australian people.

Others say this isn't a big enough problem that it's worth dissolving both houses of parliament and going to an early election over. So they say the Prime Minister is actually just using the issue to get rid of the senate and increase his power. But whether it's a power grab, an attempt to keep a closer eye on unions, or both, this early election will always go down in history as being centred on unions. If it goes ahead of course, and we won't know that until next term.

## Quiz

Okay let's go to a political quiz now. How many seats are there in the senate?

- 6
- 36
- 76

The answer is 76.

## Coral Bleaching

Reporter: Carl Smith

*INTRO: Okay now to the Great Barrier Reef where the federal Environment Minister has raised the coral bleaching threat level to its highest point. Researchers say this summer's bleaching is the worst they've seen in 15 years. But how does it even happen? Here's the answer.*

This is probably how you imagine the Great Barrier Reef looks. The film Finding Nemo showed kids around the world the beautiful creatures and colours of the Reef. But lately big parts of the reef have been looking more like this. Lots of the coral on the reef is turning white because of something known as 'coral bleaching'.

So where have all the bright colours gone? Well, first up, let's take a look at where all that colour actually comes from. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the great natural wonders of the world and it's the only living organism visible from space. Yep, you heard right - that giant thing is actually alive.

CARL: See when you look at a chunk of coral, you're really looking at a skeleton.

If you look up close you'll see loads of tiny little bumps all over it. Inside those little bumps are something called polyps. They're the bit that's alive when the coral is still in the water.

And each bit of coral can have millions of them all living together in a colony! Polyps spend their time popping out of their little hidey holes and munching on any food that floats past. They then convert it into more of that coral skeleton.

But the coral isn't alone in there. Inside there are tiny little algae too! And they actually help feed the coral by converting sunlight into energy the coral can use! While doing that the algae also gives coral its amazing colours.

But that algae is really sensitive to temperature. If it gets too warm the algae leave, the coral turns white, and it starts to starve. If the water cools down quickly they can recover. But if it stays too warm for too long some coral die. And that's the problem researchers are seeing right now after some record-breaking hot months.

KATE QUIGLEY, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY: If you just kind of look just to the side of us, right next to Carly, you can see just tons of white colonies.

These scientists are based on Lizard Island, North of Cairns and they're worried things will just keep getting warmer and warmer up here because of climate change.

TERRY HUGHES, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY: The reports in the last few days have been quite extreme levels of bleaching with the beginning of coral mortality.

When corals die off it's a big problem because it can take years or even decades for it to recover. If ever. And even if it does bounce back, it might not have the same diversity of corals and colours as before.

The government says it'll put more money into programs designed to keep an eye on reef, and it's raised the coral bleaching threat level as high as it can go.

Many scientists say that's good news, but some say we need to be doing more to combat climate change, like switching to more renewable energy sources instead of burning fossil fuels. Because if we aren't careful this giant, complex colourful mass of life could be lost for good.

## Sugar Tax

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

*INTRO: Next up the UK government has confirmed it will introduce a tax on sugary drinks to help reduce childhood obesity. And now celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has demanded Australia introduce one too. But is it a good idea? We'll let you decide.*

Here are some things you can say about sugar: It's sweet, it's grainy, and if you leave it lying around, you'll get ants. Also people in the UK might soon be paying more for it in sweetened drinks like these. The government's announced that in two years time, drinks containing more than five grams of sugar per 100ml will be hit with a new tax. And the more sugar the drinks contain, the higher the tax will be. It says too many kids are having too much sugar and it's leading to problems to like obesity, tooth decay, along with diabetes and heart disease later in life.

Celebrity chef, Jamie Oliver, says it's something other countries like Australia need to think about, too. Here in Australia, almost half of kids drink sugary drinks every day. And it's not just the fizzy kind. Juices, energy drinks, sports drinks, even iced teas can contain a lot more sugar than you might think.

MATT HOLBROOK, REPORTER: The World Health organisation reckons we should only be having about six teaspoons of sugar a day. There's way more than that amount in this juice, nearly 9 teaspoons, while this cola bottle contains sixteen teaspoons of sugar. This would be easier to do with a bigger spoon. And while we've all seen ads like these about making healthier eating choices, a new study's found that over time our eating habits haven't really changed much. Three quarters of Aussie kids between 9 and 13 are still getting more than the recommended amount of sugar. So is it time to consider a tax on sugary drinks?

Well, not everyone thinks so. Australia's food and beverage industry says it's unfair to target soft drinks because it says these drinks make up just a small part of what we eat and drink every day. They also say it would hurt business, and it could lead to all kinds of other things being taxed, too.

GEOFF PARKER, AUSTRALIAN BEVERAGES COUNCIL: All of a sudden it's open slather for the government to put a tax on burgers or pizzas or whatever

But some health organisations say the benefits are worth it, and it could make a big difference to our daily sugar intake. So do you think we should have a tax on sugary drinks?

GIRL: I think it's a really good idea and hopefully it will reduce the amount of obese teenagers and adults. And I think if they wanted to do more on it they could make healthy foods cheaper.

BOY: I don't think ten cents will break the bank so if you want a soft drink you'll buy a soft drink.

BOY 2: People will still buy the drinks and there'll be a lot of poor people around everywhere.

GIRL 2: Soft drink companies could go broke and that will cause less jobs.

BOY 3: I think that's a great idea and they should bring it over in Australia as well because Australia's creeping up the charts with the most obese kids.

## Poll

Okay I think that issue is worth a poll. The question:

Do you support a sugar tax in Australia? Let us know on our website.

Now last week we asked you if you had ever felt bullied off the back of our #BehindYou story. And the results were pretty scary. Out of 3 and a half thousand votes most - 86% - said they had felt bullied. Thanks to everyone for sharing.

## Penguin Researchers

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

*INTRO: We all know that penguins often look like they're wearing suits. But on Phillip Island in Victoria they should really be wearing lab coats. Scientists have enlisted them as mini-researchers to help gather samples they can't get any other way. The scientists hope their little researchers will help them learn more about climate change.*

They don't wear lab coats and none of them have been to uni, but these little researchers are pretty cute and now they're helping human scientists with a very important study! The little penguin researchers live here on Phillip Island in Victoria. It's an area where sea temperatures are rising faster than almost anywhere else in the world. So, human researchers have recruited these unsuspecting helpers to collect samples that would be impossible to get any other way.

We haven't had a big picture before because sampling is so difficult and it's a big area to cover. So by using the birds who know where to go and what to look for, we save ourselves the time and effort of having to do it.

To see exactly what they get up to, researchers are attaching GPS trackers to them along with activity trackers; the sort of thing people wear to measure their fitness. In this case, waddles and strokes!

**DR ANDRE CHIARADIA, PENGUIN BIOLOGIST:** Well, we put a GPS - the same as you have in your car - and we use this Fitbit chip to measure how much energy they're using, or how hard the penguins are working when they go at sea.

The aim is to find out more about how climate change is affecting our oceans. By tracking their movements, scientists are hoping to find out if the penguins are changing their habits as water temperatures rise.

**RICHARD REINA, MONASH UNI PROFESSOR:** One of the worst consequences is the range in which different species can survive shifts. So a species that are able to tolerate warmer water are likely to come further south.

One of the things they're worried about is that marine animals might have to start travelling further to look for food, or even eat different things. So to find out what these guys are eating, they're keeping a close eye on penguin poo! So far, they've been surprised to find these little guys are eating a lot of jelly fish. That could mean

other types of fish aren't as easy to find right now. Then there's this penguin-size bridge which scans each one as they walk over it! It records which penguin's which, when they leave home, come back and, most importantly, how much they weigh. That helps scientists work out how much the little penguins are eating. So that's just some of the data scientists are already getting from these cute birds. But in the future, they hope to be able to discover even more about how our environment is changing with a little help from their new feathered friends.

## Quiz 2

Okay now to our second quiz. Let's stick with the subject of penguins for this one.

Do penguins live:

- in the Northern hemisphere
- the Southern hemisphere
- or both

The answer: just the Southern hemisphere.

## The Score

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

The Rio Olympics may be around the corner but one Aussie's only just been awarded Gold from the last Olympics!

Walker Jarred Tallent came second in the 50k race in London in 2012 but the Russian walker who took gold has now been disqualified for doping, leaving Tallent the new winner!

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Australia's been knocked out of the Twenty 20 World Cup in India *by* India.

The Aussies got off to a running start with some heroics from Shane Watson in his last game before retiring.

But the boys just couldn't keep up with India's hero, Virat Kohli, who proved once again why he's one of the best batsmen in the world.

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A Melbourne table tennis player has just made history by becoming the first Aussie to qualify for both the Olympics and Paralympics!

Melissa Tapper was born with nerve damage in her arm but has been playing table tennis since she was a kid.

She's one of only a handful of people in the world to compete in both games!

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And finally this 15 year old has won one of Australia's most prestigious running race - the Stawell Gift.

Talia Martin sprinted past her older rivals in the women's race to take out first place and a 40 thousand dollar prize!

She was pretty stoked. So what does a runner buy with all that money? Talia says maybe a hoverboard!

## Fair Trade Uniforms

Reporter: Hazelbrook Public School

*INTRO: Finally today no school in Australia has uniforms quite like Hazelbrook Public School. They say they're the first school in the country to use 100% fair trade uniforms. But what does that mean? The kids from Hazelbrook walk us through it.*

HAZELBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL: Have you ever wondered where your clothes come from? Do you know how they were made and what they were made of? Well here at Hazelbrook Public school we do. We know that our school shirts were made fairly and the makers got paid their fair share of the product, because recently Hazelbrook Public school became the first in Australia to have fair trade uniforms.

GIRL: So what is fair trade?

GIRL 2: Fair Trade means everyone who helped make the products was treated well, paid fairly and had good working conditions, because most people who live and work in poverty only receive 5 per cent of the profits of clothes they make. And live on a dollar a day.

GIRL: Wow.

GIRL 2: That's why it's such a big deal.

Hazelbrook's fair trade journey started 4 years ago when we started to have fair trade father's and mother's day stalls when we heard of fair trade uniforms from a parent. After that, Anna Dohnt, the founder of the fair trade company that made our uniform, travelled around India to meet the makers of our fair trade polo shirts. The makers include the cotton pickers, the weavers, and the people who dye the shirts royal blue.

GIRL 3: I think it's a great idea because the shirts are softer and great quality. We are also expanding our fair trade school items to more clothes and even staff tea and coffee.

BOY: I really like the idea of fair trade and the way it supports different communities

GIRL 4: Our shirts are great for the environment because they're made of 50% recycled plastic bottles and 50% organic cotton. The dyes used are non toxic and the



factory recycles all its water. The fair trade industry is helping more than 100 million people around the world.

GIRL 5: Really comfy to wear but it's great to know we're supporting other communities in need.

GIRL 6: Really comfortable to wear and it's much cooler than the old shirt

BOY AND GIRL: It feels amazing being a part of this because it's about giving people in poverty a chance. We hope to inspire schools Australia wide to do the same thing and to help others.

## CLOSER

And that's it for today! See you next week.