

Questions for discussion

Episode 13
24th May 2016

Milk Prices

1. How do Jack and Nathan help out on their family's dairy farm?
2. What happens to the milk after it's been collected from the cows?
3. What dairy products are made from cow's milk?
4. Dairy processing companies pay farmers based on what?
5. What are milk solids?
6. Why are the companies paying less for milk solids?
7. How have dairy farmers reacted to the price drop?
8. Explain what Chloe has done about the issue.
9. What does she hope to achieve?
10. What do you think should happen about the milk crisis?

Vote in the Behind the News [online poll](#).

History of Voting

1. Discuss the *History of Voting* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. Who was allowed to vote in Australia in the 1800s?
3. What does suffrage mean?
4. Who were the suffragettes?
5. When did women get the right to vote in Australia?
6. When did all Indigenous people get the right to vote in federal elections?
7. In which year did the voting age change from 21 to 18 years of age?
8. Voting in Australia is not compulsory. True or false?
9. Do you think the right to vote is important? Explain your answer.
10. What was surprising about this story?

Check out the [History of Voting resource](#) on the Teachers page

Mangrove Warning

1. Write a brief outline of the *Mangrove Warning* story.
2. Why do mangrove trees have aerial roots?
3. What makes mangroves unique?
4. Give three reasons why mangroves are important.
5. Mangroves store up to _____ times more carbon than a regular forest.
6. Why are mangroves in the northern parts of Australia under threat?
7. What can be done to help save the mangroves?
8. What are students at a school in Darwin doing to help mangroves?
9. Illustrate an aspect of this story.

10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BtN story?

Check out the [Mangrove Warning resource](#) on the Teachers page

Footy Huddle

1. Briefly explain the AFL Huddle program.
2. Which AFL team created the Huddle program?
3. Who does the Huddle program support?
4. About how many volunteers help kids at the Huddle study?
5. What do the kids learn in the program?
6. How did the program help former students like Nawal?
7. A few years ago, North Melbourne came very close to moving to _____.
8. How has the Huddle program helped the North Melbourne Football Club?
9. The captain of the North Melbourne Football Club says that to be a successful football club, you need to...
10. What did you like about the *Footy Huddle* story?

Do the [quiz](#) on the BtN website

Park Design

1. What was the main point of the *Park Design* story?
2. What do you think makes a great playground?
3. Briefly explain what the 'My Park Rules' competition is.
4. What did the students at Marrickville Primary School create for their entry?
5. How many schools in Australia entered the competition?
6. The public could vote for entries in the competition. True or false?
7. How did the students feel about winning?
8. What prize did they win?
9. If you were to design a playground for your school, what features would you include? Give reasons for your choices.
10. Illustrate an aspect of this story.

Write a message about the story and post it in the comments section on the story page.

Teacher Resource

History of Voting

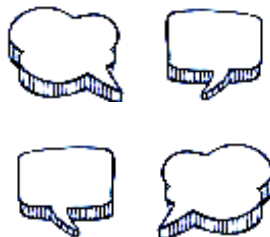
FOCUS QUESTIONS

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ACTIVITY

What is voting?

Before watching the BtN *History of Voting* story, ask students what they already know about voting. Use a mind map to record students' responses.



- What is voting?
- Why is voting important?
- Who can vote in Australian federal elections?
- How old do you have to be in Australia to vote?
- Is voting compulsory?

Class discussion

Have you ever voted? Think of different situations where you have been able to have your vote. For example, in the classroom with hands-up voting, at home in family decisions or at clubs voting for new members.

How do you know there is an election coming up? There are a lot of signs an election is near, for example, news stories, posters on stobie poles, parents talking about it or letters in the mail. Discuss as a class.

KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the history of voting and analyse significant events that have shaped Australia's system of voting.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Civics and Citizenship – Year 5

The roles and responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy ([ACHCK023](#))

The key features of the Australian electoral process ([ACHCK024](#))

History – Year 6

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women, and children

ACTIVITY

Class glossary

Create your own classroom glossary about voting. Start by brainstorming words as a class using a mind map to record your responses. Add to your list of words by downloading the BtN *History of Voting* story transcript and highlighting all the words that relate to voting. Find definitions for each word. Consider using pictures and diagrams to illustrate meanings.

- vote
- election
- ballot box
- ballot paper
- candidate
- political party
- electoral roll
- secret ballot
- donkey vote
- poll
- formal vote
- informal vote
- preferential voting
- campaign
- nominate
- compulsory voting

Challenge students by asking them to use words from their class glossary to write their own sentences. Alternatively, students can make their own crossword puzzle or word find.

ACTIVITY

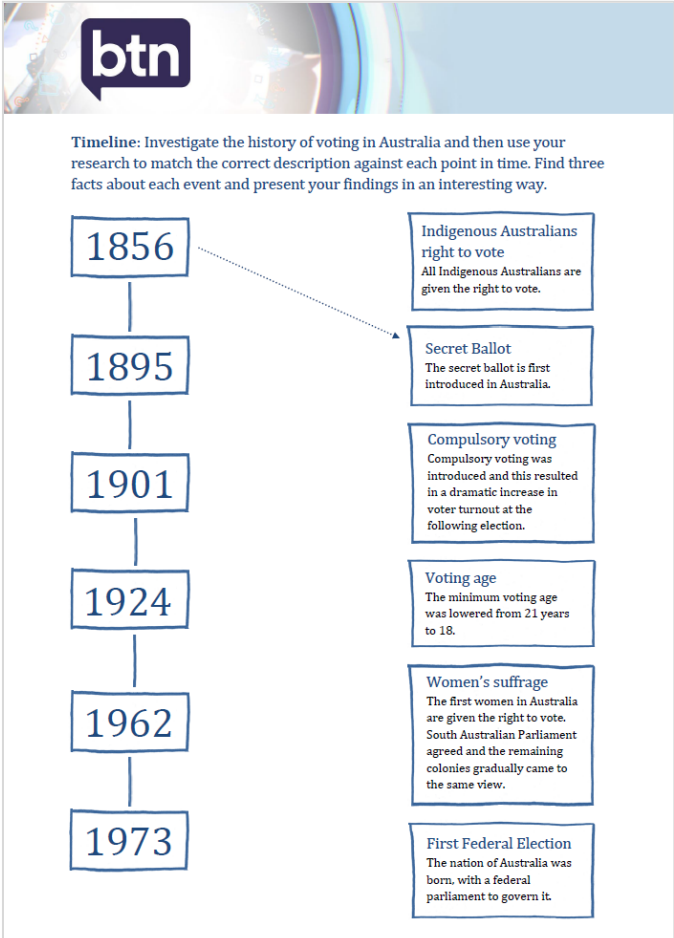
Timeline of voting

Research the history of voting in Australia.

[Download this template](#) and use your research to help match the dates to key events in Australia's history of voting.

Students will then respond to one or more of the following questions:

- Find three interesting facts about each significant event.
- Imagine what it was like not being able to vote because you are a woman or because you are Indigenous. Write a journal entry explaining your lack of rights and how it feels not being able to vote. Students will use their research findings to support their writing.
- How would you feel not being able to vote because of colour, race, gender or financial status? Was this fair? Was this democratic? Why do they think the right to vote has changed over time?
- Which dates on the timeline do you think are especially significant? Why?



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Timeline: Investigate the history of voting in Australia and then use your research to match the correct description against each point in time. Find three facts about each event and present your findings in an interesting way.

1856	Indigenous Australians right to vote All Indigenous Australians are given the right to vote.
1895	Secret Ballot The secret ballot is first introduced in Australia.
1901	Compulsory voting Compulsory voting was introduced and this resulted in a dramatic increase in voter turnout at the following election.
1924	Voting age The minimum voting age was lowered from 21 years to 18.
1962	Women's suffrage The first women in Australia are given the right to vote. South Australian Parliament agreed and the remaining colonies gradually came to the same view.
1973	First Federal Election The nation of Australia was born, with a federal parliament to govern it.

 **ACTIVITY****Suffragette movement**

Provide your students with the opportunity to act like an historian in the classroom. Students will develop an understanding of the suffragette movement and then present their findings in an interesting way.

Act like an historian

- What does suffrage mean? Find a dictionary meaning.
- Describe the suffragette movement.
- Imagine you are a suffragette living in the late 1800s. Write a persuasive letter to your local government, write a newspaper article or start a petition explaining why women should be able to vote.

Further investigation – Timeline

Students will find answers to the questions below and then create their own timeline on the suffragette movement.

Research questions

- When were women first given the right to vote in Australia? This may differ from state to state.
- When were indigenous Australian women given the right to vote?
- When were women first given the right to stand for federal parliament in Australia? This may differ from state to state.
- Who was the first woman elected as a member of parliament in Australia?
- Who was the first Australian female Prime Minister?

Can you find any other important events that have contributed to gender equality in Australia's history? Include these in your timeline.

Whilst Australian women gained the right to vote in the late 1800s, many women around the world still do not have the right to vote. Ask students to find out where in the world women still do not have the vote. Students will highlight their findings on a world map.



ACTIVITY

Visual literacy

Below are two photographs depicting significant events in Australia's history of voting. Look at the images below (alternatively find your own images using the internet) and then respond to the following questions:

- What is happening in the image?
- Where do you think it was taken?
- How do you think they might be feeling?
- Is there a message about democracy that comes across in the image? Explain.
- What question/s would you like to ask the people in the image?
- Create a caption for each image.

After you have responded to the above questions click on the link for each image to find out what is happening and compare to your responses.



Source – State Library of WA ([link to image](#))



Source – National Museum Australia ([link to image](#))

ACTIVITY

Secret Ballot

Choose a common classroom rule to vote on. Conduct an (open vote) with students on the classroom rule either for or against by putting up their hand. Now vote on the same classroom rule but students will vote using the secret ballot system.

Discussion questions:

- How does an open vote feel?
- How does a vote using the secret ballot system feel?
- Were there differences in the outcome of the votes?
- Did having no privacy influence your decision at all? How did it affect how you voted?
- How does it make you feel when others know what you want and feel?
- What are the possible reasons for people voting in a different way?

Ask students to share their responses in small groups and use either a plus, minus and interesting or SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats) chart to display the information.

Students will learn more about how the secret ballot works and investigate why the secret ballot was introduced to Australia's voting system.

- What is a secret ballot?
- Investigate the history of the secret ballot
- When was the secret ballot introduced in Australia?
- Why is the secret ballot important to Australia's voting system?

ACTIVITY

Voting Age

In Australia it's compulsory to vote in a federal election when you turn 18, but even more importantly voting gives young people the opportunity to choose who represents them in parliament. It's estimated that approximately only one in two 18 year olds and that approximately two in three 19 year olds are enrolled to vote. That's a lot of young voices missing out on having a say in who runs their country.

Write a persuasive letter convincing 18 year olds to enrol and vote. Before writing your letter think about the following:

- Why do you think 18 year olds might not enrol to vote?
- Why is it important to vote?
- Why is voting an important right?



Do you think lowering the voting age from 18 to 16 would encourage more young people to enrol and vote in a federal election? Watch [BtN's Voting Age story](#) to learn more about the debate.



A lot of people in the world don't have the right to vote. Do you think it is an important right to be able to vote in a federal election? Watch [BtN's What is Democracy? story](#) to learn more about the origins of democracy and how it has influenced our rights and freedoms today.

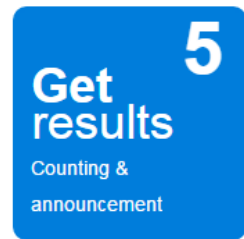
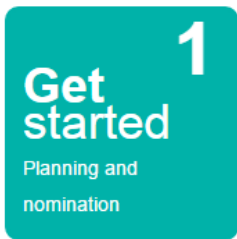


ACTIVITY

Run your own election

Running an election for your class provides the opportunity for students to participate in the democratic process of choosing representatives for a range of purposes. Students will run their own election and investigate how the preferential voting system works.

Watch [BtN's Preferential Voting story](#) to find out why people's preferences matter on election day. Visit the Australian Electoral Commission's [Get Voting website](#). Get voting is everything you need to run a free and fair election for your class.



USEFUL WEBSITES

Behind the News – Preferential Voting

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3835708.htm>

Behind the News – Voting Age

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4345701.htm>

Behind the News – Youth Vote

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3809181.htm>

Triple J – Rock Enrol

<http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/rockenrol/default.htm>

Australian Electoral Commission – Get Voting

<http://education.aec.gov.au/getvoting/content/resources.html>

Australian Electoral Commission – Australian Voting History in Action

http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/25/theme1-voting-history.htm

Australian Government – Australian Suffragettes

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/austn-suffragettes>

Civics and Citizenship Education – Electoral events timeline

http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/electoral_events_timeline_ls_9491.html

Teacher Resource

Mangrove Warning

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Write a brief outline of the *Mangrove Warning* story.
2. Why do mangrove trees have aerial roots?
3. What makes mangroves unique?
4. Give three reasons why mangroves are important.
5. Mangroves store up to _____ times more carbon than a regular forest.
6. Why are mangroves in the northern parts of Australia under threat?
7. What can be done to help save the mangroves?
8. What are students at a school in Darwin doing to help mangroves?
9. Illustrate an aspect of this story.
10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BtN story?

ACTIVITY

Negotiate with students how many activities they complete from each section.

REMEMBER / UNDERSTAND

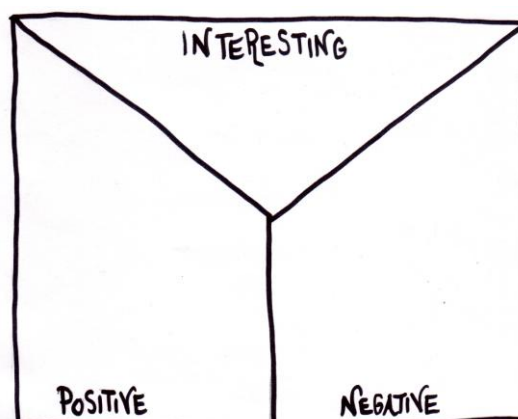
Note taking

Students will practice their note-taking while watching the BtN *Mangrove Warning* story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories.

What information about mangroves was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting

Students may want to watch the story again or download a copy of the BtN *Mangrove Warning* transcript to assist them with this activity.



KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the importance of mangroves to people, animals and the environment. Students will explore how mangroves adapt to their environment.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Science – Year 4

Living things have life cycles ([ACSSU072](#))

Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive ([ACSSU073](#))

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions ([ACSHE062](#))

Record, sort and represent data and the location of places and their characteristics in different formats, including simple graphs, tables and maps, using discipline-appropriate conventions ([ACHASSI075](#))

Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment ([ACSSU043](#))

Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment ([ACSSU094](#))

Science – Year 7

Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs ([ACSSU112](#))

Geography – Year 4

The importance of environments to animals and people, and different views on how they can be protected ([ACHGK022](#))

Glossary

Brainstorm a list of words/terms that relate to the BtN *Mangrove Warning* story. Use these words to make your own sentences about the issue. Here are some to get you started.

- tropical
- damage
- problem
- sea plants and animals
- species
- climate change
- adaptation
- ecosystem
- rising sea levels
- protect



Ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences using words from their glossary:

- A mangrove is...
- Mangroves provide food and shelter for...
- Mangroves are special because...
- Mangroves are in danger because...
- We can protect mangroves by...



APPLY / ANALYSE

Six Hat Thinking

As a class, use Edward De Bono's *Six Hat Thinking* to explore mangroves. Make your own coloured hat cut-outs and place on the floor.

Students will take it in turns answering questions in relation to what they already know about the issue, what they have learned from the BtN *Mangrove Warning* story and what they want to learn further about the topic.

[Download this worksheet](#) for students to respond to a range of questions about mangroves.

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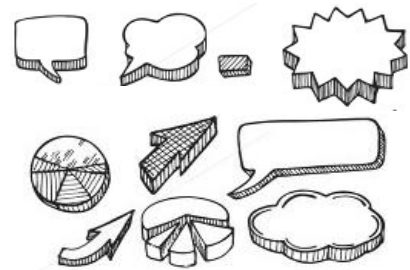
feelings and emotions	How did the BtN <i>Mangrove Warning</i> story make you feel?
facts and information	What have you learnt about mangroves?
positives	What are some of the positives that you learnt from the story?
negatives	What are some of the challenges that you learnt from the story?
creativity	What can we do to help the survival of mangroves?
thinking about thinking	What do you want to learn further about this topic?

Mangrove investigation

Students will conduct their own research either individually or in groups, responding to one or more of the following questions. To further students' investigation plan an excursion to a mangrove. Alternatively, invite a biologist to your school to learn more about mangroves. Use [weebly](#), a simple website developer, to present your findings.

Below are some questions for students to investigate:

- What are mangroves?
- Where are mangroves found in Australia? Locate using Google Maps.
- Why are mangroves important? Think of reasons why they are important to people, animals and the environment.
- What are some threats to mangroves?
- Why is it in our interest to look after mangroves?
- How can we best take care of and protect mangroves?



Adaptations

Imagine a plant that lives in mud and is soaked in sea water twice a day. Find out how mangroves thrive in conditions that would kill other plants. View the amazing adaptations that make mangroves such special plants.

Watch this [ABC Splash video](#) to learn more and then respond to the following questions:

- What would happen to plants in your garden if they were watered with salt water?
- How are mangroves different from the plants in your garden? See how mangrove roots get the air they need when they grow in thick, swampy mud?
- How might they get rid of salt from the water in their stems and leaves?
- Notice the different types of animals that live in and around the mangroves.
- What adaptations (features) do mangroves have that help them survive in this habitat?



EVALUATE / CREATE

Creature feature

The twisty trees and thick shrubs that make up mangroves provide a unique habitat to lots of wonderful creatures. The dense root systems form a home for fish, crabs, shrimps, and molluscs.

Explain to students that they will imagine they are biologists exploring the life found in mangroves.

- As a class identify different animals that can be found in mangroves. Make a list on your class whiteboard.
- Students will choose an animal which calls the mangroves their home.
- Students will create a Creature Feature on their chosen animal. Students will use a range of sources to find their information, including the internet, newspapers and books. Students will use the [Creature Feature worksheet](#) to organise and present their information.

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CREATURE FEATURE

Name (common name and scientific name)

Family

Size

Description

Diet - where do they find their nutrients?

Life span

Habitat - Where do they live? Describe their habitat.

How does this animal depend on mangrove plants?

What are some threats to their habitat?

Why are mangroves important? Think of reasons why they are important to people, animals and the environment.

Explain how climate change is affecting mangroves.

By helping protect mangroves, we're helping...

- Further investigation
 - Describe the mangrove ecosystem.
 - What animals and plants are unique to mangroves?
 - How do the plants and animals interact?

Mangrove model

Make a model of a mangrove (2D or 3D) to display in your classroom, showing its roots, seeds and creatures that live amongst the mangroves. Create a class fact file book to accompany your model which contains each student's research about mangroves.

Mangrove Children's Art Calendar

The Children's Mangrove Calendar Art Contest is asking students to create art telling us "Why mangroves are important to my community and me".

Visit this [link](#) to find out how your class can get involved in the 2017 Mangrove Action Project Children's Art Calendar.



Reflection

Students will reflect on the activity, by responding to the following comments:

- Parts of the activity I enjoyed
- Parts of the activity I found challenging
- Parts of the activity I found interesting



USEFUL WEBSITES

ABC Splash – How do mangrove trees live in mud and sea water?

<http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/media/85976/how-do-mangrove-trees-survive->

ABC News – How Darwin's iconic mangroves are fighting back against rising sea levels and climate change

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-04/darwin-mangroves-battling-sea-level-rises/7379744>

Mangrove Action – About Mangroves

<http://mangroveactionproject.org/about-mangroves/>

Mangrove Action Project – 2017 MAP Children's Art Calendar

<http://mangroveactionproject.org/childrens-calendar/>

You Tube – The Importance of Mangrove Forests

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhLlqdpB_Rs&list=PLF1x8-08t_vRz6bReHzQxByjSfavmBmL5

BtN: Episode 13 Transcript 24/05/16

Hello my name is Nathan Bazley. Welcome to BtN!

Coming up today:

- A ghost joins BtN to explain how voting has changed through history.
- Scientists warn about a bleak future for our mangroves.
- And ever dreamed of designing your own playground? These guys did and soon it'll be a reality.

Dairy Prices

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: You can see all of that very soon. But first, dairy has been the big subject of the week after some farmers revealed they're in huge financial trouble. They say milk processors aren't paying them enough to cover their costs anymore and blame cheap supermarket brand milk for driving prices so low. But processors say overseas markets are at fault for the drop in prices.

For Jack and Nathan, life on the farm is pretty sweet.

JACK: Oh it's great, it's just all open, natural, it's relaxing out here.

They live here with their mum, dad, sister and about 200 dairy cows!

JACK: Did you know that cows have four stomachs?

Twice a day the cows are brought down here to be milked.

JACK: So these are the cups. The suction bits go onto the cows and the milk is then carried through this hose into the cooling system and then into the vat.

There's around 6 thousand dairy farms like Jack and Nathan's across Australia but they're just the first step in the dairy supply chain! After milk's collected from cows it's bought by processing centres where it's cleaned and packaged ready to be sold.

But cows' milk isn't just used for drinking. Most of it is actually turned into other dairy products like cheese, butter, milk powder, ice cream and yoghurt! And while a lot of these dairy products are sent to Aussie supermarkets, a fair bit travels overseas, for people in

other countries to enjoy too. Dairy processing companies pay farmers based on how much protein and fat is in their milk. That's called milk solids but recently some big companies announced a drop in how much they're willing to pay.

Murray Goulburn used to pay farmers 5 dollars 60 per kilogram of milk solids. Now they'll pay between four dollars 75 and 5 dollars a kilo. Meanwhile Fonterra has changed its price from 5 dollars 60 to 5 dollars. The companies say the demand for Aussie dairy products overseas has dropped and they aren't making as much money as they were so they've had to cut their prices. But farmers say these changes will be devastating for many of them.

KEN LAWRENCE, DAIRY FARMER: I couldn't sleep this morning because I was thinking about it.

They say that, in some cases, they'll actually be losing money on each litre of milk they sell.

CLINT THEODORE, DAIRY FARMER: The way it is at the moment, it makes it hard to get out of bed in the morning when you know you've automatically lost money for the day, you're going backwards.

Some are calling for the federal government to get involved, like 16 year old Chloe, who started an online campaign asking the government to look at the milk pricing system and set up rules to protect farmers, like her dad. So far she's got more than 120 thousand signatures!

CHLOE: What I hope to get out of this petition is to see change in supermarkets and the way people perceive dairy farmers and the industry.

But in the meantime, some people have asked the government to put a levy on milk that would go straight to the farmers who made it.

Some say the big supermarkets haven't helped dairy farmers by selling milk at such a cheap price.

BARNABY JOYCE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I think it's incredibly wrong that water, basically in a bottle is priced more than milk and I think we have to have a strong yarn to the retailers about this.

Nathan and Jack's family say they won't be affected by the price changes for now but they reckon it's really important for everyone to support Aussie farmers when they're out shopping.

JACK: Check it's Aussie dairy brands not made by the supermarkets I guess because that would support the dairy farmers most.

And they say that together everyone can make a difference to farmers right across the country.

Poll

Now one of the biggest issues farmers brought up in that story was how they felt cheap supermarket milk had made things harder for them. But lots of families rely on it to help keep their food costs down. So where do you stand?

Should cheap milk be banned? To vote just head to our website.

This Week in News

To some of the other big news this week.

Authorities are trying to work out exactly what happened to Egypt Air Flight 804. The plane was flying from Paris to Cairo when contact was lost. There were 66 people on the plane. Experts have now found the wreckage in the Mediterranean Sea but they're still searching for the black box so they can find out what went wrong.

Back in Australia now and the campaigning is still underway around 5 weeks out from the 2016 federal election. But there are worries that hundreds of thousands of young people have missed out on their first chance to vote because they didn't enrol.

The deadline was 8 o'clock Monday night and earlier that day the Australian Electoral Commission said more than 347 thousand people between 18 and 24 years old still weren't signed up yet.

And a humungous pizza has taken shape along the shore of Naples in Italy. The Massive Margherita reached 1,853 metres long. And took 400 chefs 11 hours to make it! It broke the world record for the longest pizza ever created and apparently it tasted pretty good too!

History of Voting

Reporter: Nic Maher

INTRO: On July the 2nd all Australians over the age of 18 will have the right to vote. But it hasn't always been that way. Take a look.

Twas the night before the election and all through the house, not a creature was stirring. Except for one girl who was having a bit of a sook.

VOTER: I don't care. I don't even want to vote. It's not like one vote's gonna change anything anyway.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: I am the ghost of voting past.

VOTER: That voice is super annoying, can you cut it out?

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Okay, fine.

VOTER: Okay Mr 'Ghost of Voting Past', why should I care about voting?

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Well, voting gives you a say about what happens in Australia and you should be happy you even get to vote. Here, come with me.

VOTER: Of all the cool things we could do with time travel you're making me vote.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Yes. C'mon, just give it a try.

VOTER: Excuse me, I'd like to vote.

VOTING ATTENDANT: Give me a break, voting is not for women.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Sucks doesn't it, things weren't so good for women back then.

That's right. In Australia in the 1800s most women didn't have much of a say in how things were run. It seems pretty ridiculous now, but back then some people thought women were too emotional and not smart enough to understand politics.

That's why, in the late 1800s, many women started to demand change. Women protesting for voting rights are known as suffragettes. Suffrage means the right to vote for politicians to represent you. Suffragettes debated, wrote articles and petitions, protested and even faced arrest.

Eventually it paid off in Australia. In 1902, Australia became the first country in the world to give women both the right to vote in federal elections and the right to be elected to federal parliament. But it took another nearly 2 decades for all of the states to follow suit.

VOTER: Okay what year is this? Surely I'd be able to vote by now right?

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Give it a try but don't get your hopes up.

VOTER: Hi!

VOTING ATTENDANT: Hi. Just a quick question, what background are you?

VOTER: Aboriginal Australian.

VOTING ATTENDANT: Sorry, you're going to have to leave.

VOTER: What! That's so wrong!

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Yeah it sure is, let's get out of here.

Even though women were finally in the voting club by 1903, Indigenous Australians were still left out. In fact, it was only in 1949 they were finally given the right to vote in federal elections. But even then it was only for those who'd served in the army.

It wasn't until 1962 that the government finally gave all Indigenous Australians the right to vote in federal elections.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: One last stop.

VOTER: Ok I better be able to vote now.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: You'll see.

VOTER: I'm here to vote.

VOTING ATTENDANT: Sure! No problem. Can I just have your age? Are you over 21?

VOTER: No, I'm 18.

VOTING ATTENDANT: Sorry you're too young.

VOTER: Please I've waited so long!

VOTING ATTENDANT: You're too young.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Yeah, the voting age was 21 until 1973.

VOTER: Just take me home.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Oi! That's my thing.

VOTER: Well that was depressing.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Yeah but it really makes you appreciate that vote of yours now, doesn't it?

VOTER: Definitely. I think I might just vote tomorrow.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: By the way, Australia's one of a handful of countries that you have to vote in. It's the law, you get fined if you don't. It's been that way since 1924.

VOTER: Well you could've just said that from the beginning.

GHOST OF VOTING PAST: Yeah but where's the fun in that one! Good luck tomorrow!

Mangrove Warning

Reporter: Nic Maher

INTRO: Next, Australia is home to tens of thousands of kilometres of mangroves. But scientists are now warning that many of these important ecological regions are starting to die off because of climate change.

Some people think they're smelly, others, just plain ugly but these guys reckon mangroves are actually some of the best plants in the country.

STUDENT: The mangroves are home to many species of fish and crabs and other animals including this little guy.

Their school is right by a mangrove forest in Darwin and as part of their school science classes they come down and learn all about them.

STUDENT: Since the mangroves live in waterlogged soil, they have aerial roots sticking out of the ground so they can get oxygen into the roots.

STUDENT: They have buttress roots where they keep the trees stable when the tides come in and out.

Mangroves are a special type of plant that lives where the land meets the sea. What makes them unique is that they can grow in a mix of fresh water and salt water. In fact, mangroves can survive in water that's up to 100 times saltier than most other plants can handle!

Australia has more than 11 thousand kays of mangrove forests like this in tropical areas around coasts and rivers. The twisty trees and thick shrubs provide a unique home to lots of wonderful creatures. But they're important for heaps of other reasons too.

Experts say mangroves make up one of the most important ecosystems on the planet. They help protect coastlines from erosion by holding the ground together when big storms roll in.

They also naturally filter the water that travels out to sea. That's really important for things like coral and seagrass which rely on clean water to survive. Then there are benefits we can't see.

Mangroves store up to five times more carbon than a regular forest. Carbon dioxide is one of the gasses fuelling climate change. So, mangroves fight climate change better than any other trees on earth. But scientists say Australia's mangroves are now under threat because of climate change.

Nearly half of our mangroves are in the Northern Territory, but the top end's coastline isn't very high above sea level. So, as water levels rise, mangroves are the first plants to take the hit.

Even though mangrove forests are pretty tough, too much sea water can kill them. Scientists say it's a really big problem that's wiping out mangrove forests all over the world, leaving them looking like this.

DR IRVING MENDELSSOHN, OCEANOGRAPHY AND COASTAL SCIENCES EXPERT: Every hour a football field size of wetland is disappearing and that is just an enormous rate.

Earlier this month, experts from all around the world met in Darwin to work out a plan. And they say, one of the best things we can do right now is to protect the mangrove areas we still have.

Meanwhile, these guys are going to keep on doing their part to make sure their local mangroves stay healthy and happy too.

Quiz 1

How many tides do mangroves encounter each day?

- 1
- 2
- or 3

The answer is: 2

Footy Huddle

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Nine years ago the North Melbourne AFL team set up a project called 'the Huddle' to help refugee and migrant kids settle into the area. The program gives them a place to study and volunteers help them through their homework. It's also encouraging them to enjoy footy too.

When you think of AFL supporters, you would probably picture this. But for some North Melbourne fans, during the week you'll also see them doing a lot of this.

NAWAL HERSI, HUDDLE VOLUNTEER: We help people study but they also provide programs and opportunities and clinics and training sessions for students.

In 2010 North Melbourne created the Huddle to help support migrant and refugee kids settling into the area.

ASIL: It was my second year in Australia when I came here and it's pretty much made me comfortable here in this country.

JAKE: I think it must have been my first day when I came here and everyone was just so welcoming.

Around 200 volunteers help kids at the Huddle study. On top of that the club's players help with a bit of footy training too!

ANDREW SWALLOW, NORTH MELBOURNE CAPTAIN: People have just newly arrived in Australia and they literally don't know how to get involved within a sporting club. You

know how to sign up, they can come down, get a bit of a taste, and feel like they're part of something.

ASIL: They're really friendly and a friendly environment.

The AFL's first Sudanese player Majak Daw reckons it's a great way to get the local ethnic and migrant communities involved with the club.

MAJAK DAW, NORTH MELBOURNE PLAYER: We're using footy as a vehicle to attract the kids, firstly to get them engaged in our game but more importantly to support them in other areas.

The program is a lot of fun for these guys, and it's also been really useful for former students like Nawal who used the opportunity to study here to help get into university!

NAWAL HERSI, HUDDLE VOLUNTEER: My friend dragged me here, and she was like let's study together and I'm not really into studying right now and she said let's go to the Huddle, and I'm like what is the Huddle, you're welcomed here.

Setting up the Huddle has also been really useful for one of the oldest AFL clubs in the country. Just nine years ago North Melbourne was really struggling money-wise.

The team even came close to being moved to the Gold Coast. But creating the Huddle helped turn that around. Since then, the team's membership has doubled to about 41,000 and its finances are back in order.

ANDREW SWALLOW, NORTH MELBOURNE CAPTAIN: To be a really successful club, you need to have strong reach within your community. And for a long time we hadn't really done that very well.

MAJAK DAW, NORTH MELBOURNE PLAYER: Feel a sense of pride that my footy club you know allows these kids to come in and provide all these programs for them.

And for these guys, there's not much better than getting to hang out with the stars of their new favourite game.

NAWAL HERSI, HUDDLE VOLUNTEER: So it's a fun place, they make it fun, the Huddle is fun.

Quiz

Which AFL team won the premiership last year?

- Sydney
- Fremantle

- Or Hawthorn

The answer is: Hawthorn

Kind Classrooms

Next to BtN's Kind Classrooms. We've already had thousands of kids volunteer to show a little kindness to others. Now it's time to show us what you've done and the impact that it's had! So go to our website to send in your video just like these guys have.

Sport

To sport now and Netball Australia has announced that it's launching a new 8 team national competition in 2017. It'll involve the 5 Aussie teams currently in the Trans-Tasman league along with three new ones.

And Netball Australia's hoping to get some big footy clubs on board to fill those three extra spots. It wants Collingwood, Melbourne Storm and Greater Western Sydney to create their own Netball teams.

It's also signed a new broadcast deal which will see two live games on free to air TV each week.

Aussie surfers have been carving it up at the Rio Pro. Tyler Wright won the women's comp taking her to the top of the World Surf League rankings. She defeated Sally Fitzgibbons in an all-Aussie final to claim her third WSL win of the year.

And fellow Aussie Jack Freestone's finished up in second place in the men's after pushing through an injury earlier in the competition.

Jarryd Hayne has made his Rugby Seven's debut after quitting the NFL recently. His aim is to play for Fiji's Sevens team at the Rio Olympics. And he had some pretty spectacular moments like this try-saving ankle-tap!

But experts say he's still adapting to the new code and doubt he'll have the fitness or skill level needed in time to make the cut.

And finally from the file of 'world championships you probably didn't know existed' a 16-year old Aussie is getting ready to compete in the World Paddle Board Championships in Hawaii. Matthew Delahunty will attempt to paddle 52-kilometres across the Molokai Channel during the competition.

MATTHEW DELAHUNTY, PADDLER: You have to paddle your own way back to another island and it's just the craziest bit of ocean.

You can cheer for Matthew during the paddle board champs on the 31st of July.

Park Competition

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Last up today some school kids in Sydney are about to get a serious playground upgrade. They won a competition called 'My Park Rules' which asked kids around the country to design their ultimate play area. Now their dreams are going to become a reality.

There's nothing quite like an awesome playground, filled with exciting equipment and surrounded by plenty of grass, trees and shade! But not all Aussie school kids are lucky enough to have a space like this to play.

BOY: There's nothing to play with on Singleton Oval.

GIRL: I don't know what to do.

STUDENT: For over 40 weeks a year you can see the locals attempting to play here. The going is tough.

For many schools around Australia, this is what their yard looks like instead.

STUDENT: Running is a risky business and often the exhibition of skills is marred by the uneven surface.

The kids here at Marrickville Primary School wanted a change too so they decided to enter the My Park Rules competition.

GIRL: And we went off with our partners and said well let's think, what could we make this place be a better place?

Around 100 schools around Australia entered the comp. It asked kids to design their ideal outdoor area and be as creative as possible. The winners would get to team up with a landscape architect to make their dream park come true!

The kids at Marrickville dressed up as contestants on a home improvement show.

BOYS: This is a boring playground, where's the grass.

GIRL: Well don't you worry, we're going to put vines growing all up this wall and a big tree in this area over there. A grassy pathway all around here.

Once the videos were uploaded to the website, the public could vote on them and Marrickville, along with 7 other schools, were chosen as finalists! Then it came down to the

final announcement and these kids couldn't believe it when Marrickville was announced as the big winner!

COMPERE: The national jury has awarded Marrickville as the national winner.

BOY: It was incredible and I felt really happy.

GIRL: I thought when we won all our hard work paid off.

So with the help of an architect their school will be transformed into a playground paradise!

CLOSER

And I think that's all we can fit in this week. But if you head to our website you can find plenty more including instructions for how your class can upload a Kind Classrooms video. I can't wait to see them all next week! Bye for now!