

BtN: Episode 15 Transcript 7/06/16

Hello, I'm Nathan Bazley. Welcome to BtN!

Coming up today:

- We find out what electorates are and how they'll fit into this year's election.
- Are weapons a worry when it comes to toys?
- And meet one of the characters in our latest world champion team.

You will see all that and more soon. But first, let's find out what stories have got people talking this week.

This Week in News

Huge parts of the East coast of Australia have been battered by deadly storms over the past few days. Flood waters damaged homes, shops and roads in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania while huge waves have forced some people to evacuate from the coastline.

One of the world's greatest boxers Muhammad Ali died over the weekend. He was a three-time world heavyweight champion known for his fancy footwork and his smack talk!

ALI: I'm gonna float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see.

But out of the ring he was a big campaigner for civil rights and in the 1960s he spoke out against the way black people were being treated.

Since his death many have paid tribute to the legend

"I think he's a hero, yes ma'am I most certainly do."

We have now officially reached the halfway point of this year's federal election campaign.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull got a bit of a talking to from tropical fish Nemo in Adelaide.

And while there he announced he'd spend 24 million dollars on training scholarships for students in SA.

Meanwhile Labor leader Bill Shorten announced he'll put three billion dollars towards making childcare cheaper for some parents.

And one kid in China really needs to learn how to look and not touch! He wrecked this 20 thousand dollar 1.8 metre tall Lego sculpture of Nick Wilde from Zootopia when he accidentally pushed it over a few hours after it went on display.

It took the artist 3 days to make and he was pretty devastated but he forgave the kid because, well, accidents happen.

Electoral

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Okay back to the election and by now you might have noticed that politicians spend more time campaigning in some areas than others. You might even have heard reporters call those areas by special names like Mayo or Dobell or Hasluck. They're electoral but what do they have to do with an election? Take a look.

Ok so you might have noticed it's election time. You've seen the posters everywhere and all the ads on TV?

GIRL: Oh yeah!

So who would you vote for if you could?

GIRL: Well I suppose I'd choose between the leaders of the two major parties.

But if you look at a voting slip, you won't find both of the leader's names there.

GIRL: Why?

Well for the House of Representatives we only vote for the politicians who are running in our electoral.

GIRL: What's an electoral?

I'm so glad you asked. Australia is usually divided up into states and territories. But come election time, it's divided up a little differently! These are our 150 federal electorates. Some of them are small, like Grayndler which only covers 32 square kilometres. While some of them are enormous, like Durack in Western Australia. It covers 1 point 6 million square kilometres!

GIRL: Wait, why's that one so big, it's not fair!

Well when it comes to electorates, it's not about the size, it's about the people living in it! Electorates are worked out based on the number of people in them. That's so everyone gets a fair say. But populations change and people move house so every

now and then the Australian Electoral Commission has to make little changes to the boundaries to make sure the population numbers stay about equal. That's called redistribution.

GIRL: Hang on, Solomon, Mayo, Groom, what do all these names mean?

Well every electorate has a name and there are rules about what they can be called. They're mostly named after important Australian's who've died, former Prime Ministers or traditional Indigenous words.

GIRL: Okay but some people seem to talk about some electorates way more than others. Why's that?

Well let's say all these people make up one electorate and it's their job to vote for a politician who'll represent them in parliament.

POLITICIAN: That's me!

In some electorates people will keep voting for the same politician year after year. That could be because the people in this area all have similar opinions or they're happy with the way their party's running things. That's known as a safe seat. But sometimes it's a little trickier to tell who'll win. That could be because the people in this electorate all have different views on the big issues or many decide they want a change. That's called a marginal seat and politicians tend to spend a lot of time in these electorates, trying to convince people to vote for their party because every vote can count!

GIRL: Ok, so that's the House of Reps but what's the deal in the Senate?

Well In the Senate there are no electorates at all. Senators represent their state or territory. Each state has 12 Senate seats while the territories have 2.

GIRL: Oh yeah, that's actually pretty interesting!

Yeah! It's also really important to know because electorates are the basis for how our whole voting system works and that's something that affects every Aussie, even you!

Election Rookie Reporter

Now for some exciting election news. During a campaign major news networks always send a senior political correspondent out on the trail right? Well this year, BtN has decided to do the same. But before she gets started she needs your help. Take a look.

Hello, my name is Maya and I will be your eyes and ears during this year's federal election! I have been chosen as BtN's first ever Election Rookie Reporter and soon I'll be on the trail asking politicians what issues matter the most to kids.

But first, I need you to tell me what they are! Head to the BtN website now to let me know what you want to know more about this election and what you don't. You can

also tell me what questions you would like answered by the some of the most powerful people in the country.

Thanks for your help and I can't wait to bring you all the highs and the lows of the 2016 election right here on BtN!

Violent Toys

Reporter: Nic Maher

INTRO: Next up, a new study has found Lego has become increasingly violent over its 67 year history. Researchers say more sets now include weapons or characters in war-like situations than in the past. We'll ask you what you think about that soon but first let's take a closer look at the issue.

KID 1: Here I have made the all amazing house of awesomeness.

KID 2: It's like a car with people on it.

KID 3: I've built a girl who is kind of stranded on an island.

For a very long time, people have been turning these tiny, colourful bricks into all sorts of things.

KID 4: It's good for like, all ages.

KID 5: They're just squares and you can make anything out of squares, except for circles.

KID 6: I just like to use my imagination to build different things with tiny little blocks and just create different things.

Lego first came on the scene in 1949, from the small town of Billund in Denmark. It started out with just these simple Lego bricks but, as time passed, Lego of all shapes and sizes started to pop up. Then, almost 30 years later, the first Lego weapons were introduced in this castle set.

Fast forward to today and Lego is now looking a lot less innocent than it used to. A recent study found 30% of all Lego kits contain weapons like swords, guns and lightsabers.

It also says that 40% of pages in Lego catalogues show violent or threatening behaviour.

But the researchers say it's not just Lego that's getting more violent, it's also happening with other toys, video games, TV shows and movies too. Some people say that's a worry because there have been studies that say that kids who play with violent toys or games are more likely to behave aggressively. But not all experts agree. Some say pretend violence doesn't lead to the real thing at all.

For its part, Lego says its products show a range of activities, like construction, fantasy and conflict and all of those, are a normal part of a kid's development. But, what do you think?

KID 5: There's so many worse things out there like comic books and like the movies and things like, I really think Lego isn't something people should be complaining about.

KID 3: It's not that graphic which isn't too bad, because there's nothing like blood or anything. But as long as there's an age restriction, which there is, I think it's okay.

KID 7: As long as we're teaching kids about how the weapons are dangerous and how they could affect other people.

KID 8: They don't always have to buy Lego, there's other options and they don't have to buy the gun ones as well. There's other options to the gun ones.

Poll

How do you feel about weapons as toys?

All good or not OK

To vote, just head to our website.

Indigenous Veterans

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Last week as part of Reconciliation Week, many people gathered for special ceremonies to remember the service and sacrifice of Australia's Indigenous Veterans. We caught up with some school kids who volunteered to help out at one of these ceremonies after creating a book that tells the stories of Indigenous veterans from their area.

CARL SMITH, REPORTING: They're the Indigenous men and women who fought bravely for our country.

TALISHA: Warrant Officer Leonard Waters, first Indigenous man accepted into the Royal Australian Air Force, served in World War 2.

CAROLINA: Private James Maynard, injured in 1918 during World War 1.

HANNAH: Charles Allie fought in the light horse brigade in World War 1.

ASHLEY: Warrant Officer John Enchong, fought in Malaya and the Korean War.

And these are the school kids helping to highlight their stories.

CAROLINA: The book is called Generations of Service and it is the stories of eight different Indigenous families who all served in various world wars and other conflicts

ASHLEY: Everyone in our class worked on the book. We all had a family who we were researching and writing about.

Searching through archives and talking to the veterans' relatives they helped build a picture of each family's history.

ASHLEY: We did a lot of different research, so personally for my group I had Tara Enchong come in and talk to us on two different occasions. A lot of other people had email correspondence with their families, as well as looking through the national archives.

TALISHA: Yeah, it was much better than just reading out from a textbook. It was good to like get involved and personally get to know these families was very good.

They even discovered some brand new information about the family of one of their subjects.

CAROLINA: We interviewed Bradley Maynard who is serving in the army in Tasmania. And we researched his family going back to World War One and we actually discovered some family members that not even he knew about.

HANNAH: They weren't really recognised for what they had done. And they had done so much for our country and they didn't really get the recognition they deserved.

Despite fighting for Australia for generations, Indigenous people weren't always allowed to enlist in the military.

At the start of World War One, non-Europeans weren't allowed to sign up. But at least 1000 Indigenous people still found their way onto the frontlines overseas. Over the years many Indigenous servicemen and women have died in conflicts too.

And that's why Indigenous Veterans Ceremonies like this one are held to commemorate the fallen. After writing their book, these guys decided to help out at this year's ceremony in Adelaide.

HANNAH: We're going to be ushering elders to their seats; it's going to be a different experience because I haven't done anything like this before so I'm excited to see what it's all about.

Many at the ceremony thanked the girls for their work on the book.

TARA ENCHONG, RAAF: I've loved working with these girls. They're such a good group and they're our future leaders so to see them passionate about our history and wanting to share our stories, it means a real lot to me.

And one serviceman even sent a message to them from Afghanistan!

PRIVATE ROBERT THATCHER: I'm truly honoured and proud to have been a part of your project, and I hope you are proud of what you achieved. You didn't just create stories, you published history.

ASHLEY & TALISHA: I think it was really inspiring that they can come together to recognise what they've done in the past. Yeah definitely, and they can all connect with this one thing, this one amazing thing.

Quiz

How many years ago was the beginning of World War I?

52

102

1002

The answer is: 102

Bionic Boy

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Okay next we're going to a really lovely story about how technology and persistence can change someone's life. 13-year old Riley was born with cerebral palsy which makes it difficult for him to do lots of everyday things. But now he can do pretty much anything with the help of one Aussie scientist and some pretty cool tech. Take a look.

This is Riley. He's 13, has a little sister and brother, and a dog named Tiny.

CHASE: A lot of people see Riley as different but in my eyes, he's always the way he has been and he's just a normal brother to me.

Riley was born with cerebral palsy, so it's hard for him to do many of the things other kids can. Just to speak he uses a special computer that tracks his eye movements because his eyes are the only part of his body he can control well.

RILEY: The hardest thing for me is not having some independence.

But biomedical engineer Dr Jordan Nguyen has come up with a plan to help.

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: If we can get it working, you're going to be controlling technology through your eyes. It's going to be a form of telekinesis. You know, the idea that you can, without touching an object, be able to move an object, be able to turn on an object and be able to control that technology. And I think that idea, it's like a superhuman power.

With the help of scientists and a team of engineers Jordan has created a device that tracks eye movements like up, down, left and right.

Those movements will act as commands for a computer that will control lots of the things Riley has around his home.

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: If we're able to work out which signals you're doing each time, we're going to be able to control anything, any type of technology we can think of.

After weeks of hard work, and lots of training, Riley and Jordan are ready to test out the new equipment.

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: First Riley's going to try turning on the light bulb.

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: There we go!

It's a massive moment, and it means Riley could soon have more control over the things around him. But there's one more piece of technology Riley has always dreamed of controlling.

RILEY: I want to drive a car.

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: You want to drive a car.

And Jordan and his team reckon their technology is up to the task. Riley will be able to steer the car using the same eye commands as before. But because his eyes won't be able to stay focused on the road a set of buzzers on his arms will let him know if he gets close to something.

So now it's time to see if it all works!

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: So, it might not be a car but I think it's a little bit better. What do you reckon? Yeah? Do you want to give that a go?

DR JORDAN NGUYEN: Keep it straight. Yeah! Yeah! Up, up, up. Whoo-hoo-hoo! Oh, Riley! Oh, my God. You drove a car. Oh, my God. Oh. We got there.

RILEY: Wow. This has been the best experience of my life.

QUIZ

Which of the following body parts can't be replaced with a bionic version?

Ear

Eye

Hand

The answer is: Sorry, it's a trick question because they all can be!

SPORT

Police are investigating claims of match fixing in the NRL. They're looking at two games last year, both involving the Manly Sea Eagles because large sums of money were bet on the outcome of the games. The NRL says if it's found players or officials are involved they'll be banned from the sport for life.

Spanish tennis player Garbine Muguruza has won her first ever Grand Slam title at the French Open. She upset world number one Serena Williams, winning the match in straight sets. The loss means Williams will have to wait until the next Grand Slam to try and equal Steffi Graf's record of 22 Grand Slam wins.

Meanwhile Novak Djokovic won the men's final coming from behind to beat Andy Murray in 4 sets. It was the Serbian's 12th Grand Slam win and his first victory at the French Open.

These are just some of the 40 athletes training hard for a spot in the first ever refugee team to compete at the Olympic Games. All of them have been forced to leave their home countries but Olympic organisers want to make sure they still have a chance to compete. All up around ten refugees will qualify for the team.

Speaking of the Olympics, Aussie tennis player Nick Kyrgios, has pulled out of the Australian Olympic team. He says he won't be competing because he's been treated unfairly by the Australian Olympic Committee. The committee has made a few comments about his on-court behaviour in the past.

And around sixty people have celebrated the first day of winter by taking part in an ice plunge at a Victorian ski resort.

"It's alright, pirates are crazy, crazy people run into freezing water. Argh!"

"Yeah it's gonna be freezing!"

"Super pumped, super terrified, it's going to be a horrible experience, hopefully I'll make it out alive."

Jumping into the icy water is supposed to be a good sign for the snow season ahead which clearly makes no sense at all.

Rugby Sevens

Reporter: Nic Maher

INTRO: Finally today, the Australian Women's Rugby Sevens team made history recently as our first national team to win the sport's World Series. Now, the team has shifted its focus to the upcoming Olympics where Rugby Sevens will feature for the first time. Will they take home gold? Well they're going in pretty confident.

Australia, meet your latest sporting superstars!

Ellia Green is just one member of the Pearls, Australia's new World Series-winning Rugby Sevens' team. But strangely, she only ended up in the sport by accident. Ellia was just giving her cousin a lift to training, when she decided to give it a crack herself.

ELLIA GREEN: I went there and thought it was really cool, because I like tackling, I'm not afraid of the contact, I'm pretty rough with my brother, I'm not afraid to hit him, a time or two, ha ha, so it wasn't so much the contact thing, but I was nervous about it all and everything but there's no way I would ever picture myself in my shoes today.

REPORTER: And what can we expect from Ellia Green this time round?

ELLIA GREEN: Look, this is what you can expect from Ellia Green, you going to expect power, speed, and you're going to expect a good time, and a laugh on the field, because I'm here for the entertainment as well.

If Ellia ever gets sick of rugby, it's only a matter of time before her rapping career takes off too.

ELLIA GREEN: The G Train or Green machine are just a few of my names, Rugby 7s that's my main game, I play on the wing cos I like to run fast, used to be on the track but that's in my past. Yo.

But you might be wondering, what is Rugby Sevens? Well, it's basically a quicker version of Rugby Union. The key stuff is the same, like only being able to throw sideways or backwards, and tries are still worth 6 points.

But regular games are a lot shorter; just 14 minutes instead of 80, and instead of it being 15 a-side, teams are just 7 a-side on the same size pitch. That means players have way more room to move, which means a lot more tries.

For example, during the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup tries were scored on average every 28 minutes. But in the Rugby Sevens season that same year, it was once every 3 minutes!

Now that Ellia and the gang are Rugby Sevens world champs there's still one huge challenge left for them in 2016, winning Olympic gold. For the first time ever, Rugby Sevens will feature at the Olympic Games and the Pearls will be hoping to etch their name into the history books once again.

ELLIA GREEN: I think it's just a lifelong dream for a lot of us. It's been my dream since I was five years old I think, and I've had pictures of Olympians on my wall in my mum's home in Melbourne, just thinking about Rio is thinking about a life accomplishment.

CLOSER

And that wraps us up for another episode. But please head to our website straight after this to let Rookie Reporter Maya know what questions you'd like her to ask the pollies she meets out on the trail. And tune in next week to see how she goes in her first assignment - political reporter boot camp! See you then!