

## Questions for discussion

Episode 18 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016

#### Rookie Reporter: Leaders

- 1. Discuss the BtN story as a class. What were the main points of the discussion?
- 2. What did Malcolm Turnbull do before he became a politician?
- 3. Complete this sentence. A big focus for the Liberal Party is......
- 4. The Coalition is made up of which two political parties?
- 5. Who is the leader of the National Party and Australia's deputy Prime Minister?
- 6. Who is the leader of the Labor Party?
- 7. What does Labor say its focus is?
- 8. Richard Di Natale is the leader of which political party?
- 9. What issues are the Australian Greens passionate about?
- 10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BtN story?

Check out the Rookie Reporter: Leaders resource on the Teachers page

#### Concussion Campaign

- 1. Discuss the main issues raised in the *Concussion Campaign* story with another student.
- 2. About how many sports-related concussions occur in Australia each year?
- 3. What happens to the brain when someone gets concussed?
- 4. What are the symptoms of concussion?
- 5. Experts say that kids may have a higher chance of getting concussions than adults. True or false?
- 6. Why do some people think wearing head protection could make things worse?
- 7. What other suggestions have been made to reduce the number of concussions?
- 8. What is the aim of the `no brain no game' campaign?
- 9. What do you think could be done to reduce the number of concussions in kids?
- 10. What did you learn watching this story?

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

#### **NAIDOC Art**

- 1. Describe the artwork the students in the BtN story are creating.
- 2. Why are they creating the artwork?
- 3. Why were camels introduced to Australia?
- 4. Where did the camels come from?
- 5. How did the relationship between Aboriginal people and Afghan cameleers develop?
- 6. How many Indigenous Australian Muslims live in Australia today?
- 7. Why were the cameleers phased out?
- 8. Where did the students learn about the story of the cameleers?



9	The students say	the artwork is a cel	lebration of	
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10. Name three facts you learnt watching this story.

Check out the NAIDOC Art Resource on the Teachers page

#### Pet Therapy

- 1. What was the main point of the story?
- 2. Why are the students in the BtN story feeling stressed?
- 3. What is the school doing to help the students relax?
- 4. In your own words, explain what animal therapy is.
- 5. Apart from schools, where else is animal therapy used?
- 6. How can animals help people who are lonely?
- 7. How do dogs help kids with autism?
- 8. Some studies show that spending time with animals can even improve the way our works.
- 9. Do you think animals can help relieve stress? Explain your answer.
- 10. What was surprising about this story?

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

#### Indigenous Opera Stars

- 1. Briefly summarise the BtN story.
- 2. What is the name of the opera company featured in the BtN story?
- 3. What opportunities do the workshops give the kids?
- 4. Where was the choir's first major performance?
- 5. How did the kids feel about performing?
- 6. How does singing in the choir help the kids connect to their culture?
- 7. The kids write and sing songs in their own languages. True or false?
- 8. Which famous Indigenous singer did the kids perform with?
- 9. The choir will feature on Archie's next \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 10. What did you like about this story?

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







### **Teacher Resource**

Episode 18 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016

# Rookie Reporter: Leaders



## **FOCUS QUESTIONS**

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## **ACTIVITY**

#### **KWLH**

**Before** watching the BtN *Leaders* story, respond to these questions:

- Can you name Australia's three major political parties?
- Who are their leaders?

After watching the BtN *Leaders* story, discuss as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I	What do I <u>w</u> ant	What have I	<u>H</u> ow will I
<u>k</u> now?	to know?	<u>l</u> earnt?	find out?

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines).

- Why do political parties form?
- Discuss the benefits of working with like-minded people?



### **KEY LEARNING**

Students will examine the leaders of Australia's three major political parties. Students will identify the characteristics that would make for a 'good' leader.



#### English - Year 6

Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources including media and digital texts (ACELY1713)

Compare texts including media texts that represent ideas and events in different ways, explaining the effects of the different approaches (ACELY1708)

#### Civics and Citizenship - Year 5

The key features of the Australian electoral process (ACHCK024)

Use and evaluate a range of information to develop a point of view (ACHCS030)

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

#### Civics and Citizenship - Year 6

Develop questions and gather a range of information to investigate the society in which they live (ACHCS040)

Present <u>civics</u> and <u>citizenship</u> ideas and viewpoints for a particular purpose using <u>civics</u> and <u>citizenship</u> terms and <u>concepts (ACHCS045)</u>













#### Class glossary

Create your own classroom glossary about political parties. Start by brainstorming words as a class using a mind map to record your responses. Find definitions for each word. Create your own classroom glossary of words with explanations.

- Political party
- Election
- Campaign
- Policy
- Platform
- Voting
- Member of Parliament
- MP
- Independents
- Opposition
- Run (in an election)

Refer to the *Australian Electoral Commission Glossary* for meanings and sentence examples. http://www.aec.gov.au/footer/Glossary.htm



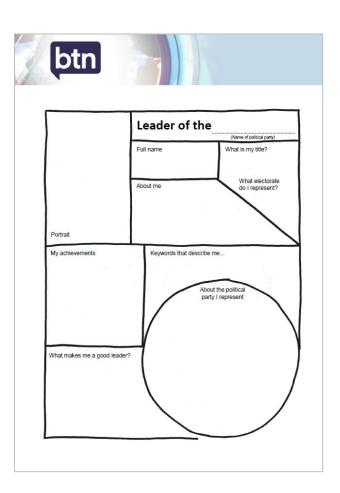
## **ACTIVITY**

#### In depth study

Find out as much as you can about the leaders of the three major political parties in Australia, using a range of primary and secondary sources (internet, newspapers and books). Use this <a href="worksheet">worksheet</a> to structure the biographical information you find.

#### **Further investigation**

- Explore the history of one of Australia's major political parties. Present your findings in a timeline.
- Choose an election policy (supported by one of the major political parties) that interests you and explore further. Using your own words summarise what the policy is about and who it will affect. What is your position on this policy?
- Choose one of the major political parties and plan their media campaign leading up to the federal election. For example, encouraging young people to enrol to vote.





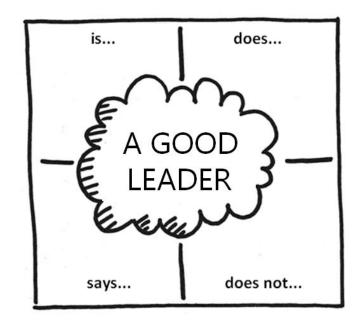


#### What makes a good leader?

What do you think makes a good leader? Brainstorm and list what a good leader 'is', 'does', 'does not' and 'says'. Record your ideas on the class whiteboard. For example:

- honest
- good at communicating
- confident
- has a positive attitude
- commitment
- creative
- inspiring

What are some examples of good leaders? They may be world leaders or leaders at your school. They can be leaders from a range of different areas, like science, fashion or sport. What are some examples of good leaders in politics?



#### How can you be a great leader?

Think of activities that you can do at home or school to help build your leadership skills. For example:

- join your school's SRC
- set a good example in front of your friends
- · complete your daily duties
- volunteer in your community
- school debating
- playing a sport



## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

Parliamentary Education Office – Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull <a href="http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/fact-sheets/prime-minister.html">http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/fact-sheets/prime-minister.html</a>

Behind the News – Young Leaders <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3974812.htm">http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3974812.htm</a>

National Archives of Australia – Australia's Prime Ministers <a href="http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/">http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/</a>

Behind the News – New PM http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4327059.htm





### **Teacher Resource**

Episode 18 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016

# **NAIDOC** Art



## **FOCUS QUESTIONS**

- 1. Describe the artwork the students in the BtN story are creating.
- 2. Why are they creating the artwork?
- 3. Why were camels introduced to Australia?
- 4. Where did the camels come from?
- 5. How did the relationship between Aboriginal people and Afghan cameleers develop?
- 6. How many Indigenous Australian Muslims live in Australia today?
- 7. Why were the cameleers phased out?
- 8. Where did the students learn about the story of the cameleers?
- 9. The students say the artwork is a celebration of
- 10. Name three facts you learnt watching this story.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers please note that this document contains photographs of deceased Indigenous people.



## **ACTIVITY**

#### **Class Discussion**

After watching the BtN *NAIDOC Art* story, discuss as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? Record what you know about the relationship between Muslim cameleers and Indigenous Australians.

The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?



### **KEY LEARNING**

Students will investigate the relationship between Muslim cameleers and Indigenous Australians.



#### History - Year 3

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, <u>Anzac Day</u>, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems (<u>ACHASSK064</u>)

#### History - Year 4

The diversity of Australia's first peoples and the long and continuous connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to Country/Place (land, sea, waterways and skies) (ACHASSK083)

#### History - Year 5

The reasons people migrated to Australia and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony (ACHASSK109)

#### Civics and Citizenship - Year 7

How groups, such as religious and cultural groups, express their particular identities; and how this influences their perceptions of others and vice versa (ACHCK053)

#### Visual Arts - Years 3 & 4

Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times, including <u>artwork</u> by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <u>artists</u>, to use as inspiration for their own representations (ACAVAM110)



Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry or use one or more of the questions below. They will collect and record information from a wide variety of sources (internet, books, newspaper and magazines) and present the information in an interesting way.

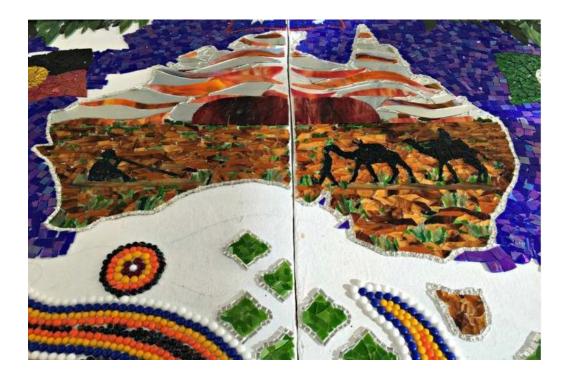
#### Questions for inquiry

- Investigate the history of Muslim cameleers in Australia:
  - o Who were the cameleers?
  - o Why did they come?
  - o Where did they live?
- How did the Muslim cameleers and Aboriginal people help each other?
- How did the expeditions involving explorers, Muslim cameleers and Aboriginal people help shape the Australian colonies?

# **ACTIVITY**

Respond to the mosaic created by the students at the Islamic College. Students will respond to the following questions.

- What do you like about the artwork? Why?
- How does the artwork make you feel?
- What materials and techniques are used? Why might the artist choose these materials?
- What do I like or dislike about the artwork? Why?
- What emotions does the work evoke/ how does it make me feel? What colours are used? What does this communicate?
- What does the title of the artwork tell you about the meaning?





# **ACTIVITY**

#### **Visual literacy**

As a class examine the following historical images and hold a class discussion asking students what they see and what they think is happening. Individually students will choose one of the images and respond to the questions below.



Unloading camels at Port Augusta, ca.1920. Source: State Library of South Australia



Bejah and Warrior Source: State Library of South Australia (<u>link</u> to image)



Expedition party at waterhole
Source: South Australian Museum (link to image)



Photograph taken c. 1891.
Source: State Library of WA (<u>link</u> to image)

#### Observe

• What do you see in this image? Describe the setting and who is in the image. Are there details you can't identify?

#### Reflect

- What do you think is happening?
- What do you think about what is happening in this image?

#### Query

- What might have happened just before and just after the scene in the picture?
- What questions do you have about what you see in this image?



#### **Indigenous Art**

Watch the BtN <u>Indigenous Art</u> story. The kids in this story are exploring a special exhibition called Tarnanthi and are working with the Art Gallery of South Australia, to create audio tours. Respond to the following questions after you have watched the story.

- 1. What have the kids made for the Tarnanthi art exhibition?
- 2. What is the purpose of an audio guide?
- 3. Give an example of the sort of information in the guide.
- 4. Who did the students interview as part of their research?
- 5. Describe Yvonne Koolmatrie artworks.
- 6. Where does she collect the materials for her artworks?
- 7. Describe at least one other piece of art in the exhibition.
- 8. How did they put together their audio guides?
- 9. What did the art gallery say about the guides the kids made?
- 10. What was surprising about this story?





## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

ABC News – Mosaic helps Muslim and Aboriginal communities piece together old and new connections <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-18/mosaic-helps-muslim-and-aboriginal-communities-connect/7522940">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-18/mosaic-helps-muslim-and-aboriginal-communities-connect/7522940</a>

Islamic Museum of Australia – Australian Muslim History <a href="https://www.islamicmuseum.org.au/index.php/exhibitions/permanent-gallery/islamic-history">https://www.islamicmuseum.org.au/index.php/exhibitions/permanent-gallery/islamic-history</a>

Australian.gov – Afghan Cameleers in Australia http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/afghan-cameleers

Australia's Muslim Cameleers – Cameleers and Aboriginal People http://www.cameleers.net/?page\_id=8

NAIDOC Week – Official Website <a href="http://www.naidoc.org.au/">http://www.naidoc.org.au/</a>



# BtN: Episode 18 Transcript 28/06/16

Hello, I'm Nathan and this is BtN.

#### Coming up today

- Rookie Reporter Maya joins us for the final time to share what she's learnt about the leaders fronting this year's election.
- Why scientists and sporting clubs are teaming up to tackle concussions in sport.
- And how a cat could help you in the lead up to your next exam.

#### Rookie Reporter: Leaders

Rookie Reporter: Maya

INTRO: You'll see all that and more soon but first today, after weeks of campaigning, the 2016 federal election is nearly upon us. And throughout it all, we've heard the thoughts and ideas of a lot of politicians but none more than party leaders. So we asked our Rookie Reporter, Maya, to share what she's discovered about them over her time on the trail.

There's less than one week til the big vote and things have been getting pretty crazy for me on the campaign trail! I'm really nervous; everybody seems a bit rushed so I seem a bit nervous as well.

Thanks to some hard work, I was able to chase down some really important people. Although some were a little bit easier to get a hold of than others!

The Prime Minister will probably be coming from there, or that way. I don't know! I'm so confused! I did it all to learn a bit more about these leaders and what they stand for. Here's what I found out.

First up let's meet current Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Before he was a politician, Mr Turnbull worked as a journalist and a lawyer, before becoming a very successful businessman. He's now worth more than one hundred million dollars!

He moved into politics in 2004 and last year he took over from Tony Abbott as the leader of the Liberal Party, and as Prime Minister. The Liberal Party has been around since 1945. They say a big focus of theirs is making sure Australia has a strong economy.

You've probably heard the Prime Minister say this a few times lately.



MACLOLM TURNBULL: Jobs and Growth. Jobs and Growth. Jobs and Growth.

So, when I got a chance to talk to him, he told me one of the ways he was planning to make that happen.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: If we don't have more students studying science and technology and mathematics, STEM subjects, our future, your future, will be put at risk.

You might have heard the PM also being called the leader of the Coalition. That's a group of political parties with similar beliefs that decided to team up. The two biggest members of the Coalition are the Liberal Party and the National Party.

The National Party tries to look out for country people. And their leader is Barnaby Joyce, Australia's deputy Prime Minister.

Now, let's take a look at Prime Minister Turnbull's biggest competitor, Bill Shorten. He's the head of the Labor Party, which is Australia's oldest political party. Like Mr Turnbull, Mr Shorten also started off as a lawyer, before moving to work at a union. That's an organisation that aims to represent Aussie workers. He then became a politician in 2007, before rising to the top of his party 6 years later.

Labor says its focus is on making life fair for working class Australians and making sure the government helps them where it can.

BILL SHORTEN: When it comes to tackling inequality, because it's a drag on our economic growth and prosperity as a nation, I promise you this: Labor in opposition will be Labor in government at the next election and we will keep our promises.

Now, just because Labor and the Coalition have won every election since 1943, doesn't mean they're the only 2 parties in Australia. There are lots of other ones too, all with different ideas and beliefs.

But the biggest of them, is The Greens. It's led by Richard Di Natale, who used to be a doctor before he got into politics.

RICHARD DI NATALE: I spent a few years working in Aboriginal health and I got a bit frustrated that a lot of the problems I was seeing were problems that weren't really issues as a doctor I could treat. So, as somebody who was really keen to make the world a better place, politics I thought was an important way to do it.

While we know the Greens are big on saving the environment, they say they're also really passionate about other issues as well, like marriage equality.

RICHARD DI NATALE: We all think that it's time to end discrimination in marriage and to recognise that love is love whether they're of the same sex or not.

So, they're the leaders of the three biggest political parties in Australia right now and I'd like to thank them all for coming on the show and talking to me.



So all we have to do now is wait til Saturday!

#### **Election Survey Results**

And I'd like to thank Maya for doing an absolutely amazing job for us during this election. If you'd like to see more of her make sure you tune in to ABC3 on Friday for a special behind-the-scenes look at her experiences on the trail. It's awesome fun and you can see it at 11:30am or 7pm.

Now, just before we finish with the election coverage you might remember a few weeks ago we asked you who you'd vote for if you could.

So now it's time to reveal who the kids of Australia would vote into Government.

The winner of the 2016 BtN Kids' Election is the Coalition with 36% of your vote followed by Labor on 27%. We also asked you if you would like the voting age changed and most of you went with no, although more than a third did say you would like it lowered and the average age you suggested was 14. Thanks to everyone who cast a vote.

#### This Week in News

The big news from this week is that the people of the UK have decided to leave the European Union.

The Leave campaign won the Brexit referendum 52 to 48 percent which was a huge shock because the Remain camp was expected to win right up until polling closed.

The decision has caused controversy throughout Britain and Europe and chaos on financial markets around the world.

After the result Britain's Prime Minister and Remain supporter, David Cameron announced his resignation saying he believes someone else should lead the country's exit from the EU.

Researchers in Queensland are trying to find the cause of a mysterious disease affecting sea turtles on the Great Barrier Reef. It's a virus which is causing tumours to grow on their bodies and eyes that can affect their ability to find food.

RESEARCHER: We're a little bit worried because now we're starting to see a little more of this disease and obviously that's bad for the turtles but we're also wondering what it's saying about the Reef.

The researchers are also studying healthy animals to try to figure out what's causing the disease.



A US jury has decided that Led Zeppelin didn't steal the riff to their most famous song Stairway to Heaven.

They were accused of ripping off parts of a song called Taurus by the band Spirit.

The jury decided to dismiss the case after hearing from band members and a bunch of musical experts but it seems like most of you disagree with the decision.

In our poll on the topic most of you said it must have been a copy.

#### **Concussion Campaign**

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Scientists and sporting groups have joined forces to launch a new program aimed at better understanding and fighting the effects of concussion. It's called #nobrainnogame and comes hot on the heels of new guidelines from the Australian Medical Association designed to help protect kids from the damaging effect of head knocks.

So you're playing a bit of sport. But then suddenly, you get a big knock to the head. You might start to feel confused or sick. Or the world might just go black. That's what happens when you get a concussion.

KID: The other week one of my team mates got hit in the head and was taken to hospital. And the week before that another one of my team mates from my club team was taken to hospital as well

KID: It just, like when you got the impact, it felt really disorientating and then you slowly got it back after a while

KID: He just felt like a little bit dizzy and he was just like lying on the floor for a little bit.

KID: Sometimes they look like they don't have a clue where they are and they look a bit shocked really.

And in competitive sport they're actually pretty common.

The Australian Institute of Sport estimates there are as many as 100,000 sports-related concussions in Australia each year. And it says the number of people admitted to hospital for them has risen by about 60 per cent just in the past decade!

But what's actually going on inside your head when you get a bad knock? Well first, you need to know that your brain actually sits in liquid inside your skull, so it floats and can move around. If it collides with something the brain can move enough to bounce against the skull. That impact can leave the brain bruised or even make small tears in the nerves.



That's why people with a concussion are left feeling dizzy, confused, sick or with blurry vision.

Experts say kids may have a higher chance of getting concussions than adults. That's why many sporting and medical groups around the country are trying to find the best way to reduce the number of concussions in junior games.

Some have suggested wearing protective headgear, but studies have shown that can actually give kids a false sense of security leading to more concussions.

Others think there should be special rules for people under 18, like not being allowed to do combat sports like boxing or not being able to play for two weeks after a concussion to make sure people are fully healed.

On top of those suggestions, football codes have already made some changes to make the sports safer like banning some dangerous tackles. But in competitive sport sometimes big hits are just unavoidable.

So sporting groups and scientists have teamed up to launch the new 'no brain no game' campaign. Part of the campaign will focus on raising awareness around how serious concussions can be. But the scientists will also be looking at how the brains of athletes change when they get a concussion. And they're working on a new saliva test that could help sports teams figure out just how severe a concussion is.

These guys say there are plenty of other simple ways to keep everyone safe on the field too.

KID: Wearing protective gear and stuff, like in certain sports they have rules to stop these concussions.

KID: Just be careful if you're like playing, just mucking around with your mates, make sure you're not being too hard on them and yeah take it easy.

KID: I guess you go for the ball not the man and take a bit more care in your tackling.

#### Quiz

Okay, quiz time!

What is the largest part of the brain called?

Cerebrum

**Brain Stem** 

Or Memorium

The answer is the Cerebrum. And it's this bit here.



#### **NAIDOC Art**

Reporter: Nic Maher

INTRO: Next up, students at an Islamic school in Melbourne are currently working on a special art project for NAIDOC Week next week. They're creating a mosaic that tells the story of the shared history between Aboriginal and Muslim people in Australia. Take a look.

These kids are using art to learn about a pretty interesting chapter in Aussie history.

The relationship between Muslim and Indigenous Australians. A bond that actually goes back hundreds of years.

STUDENT 1: In our community we have a lot of mosaic artists. Mosaic is a way to bring people together and connect us and the cultural diversity.

It's like an Aboriginal painting as well, there's a story in it. Back in the 1800s, European settlers wanted to explore the interior of Australia but they soon realised their horses wouldn't quite cut it. So, they turned to the experts of desert exploration, camels. They had to be shipped in from places like Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, along with some expert riders. Those riders became known as the Afghans.

Through their travels they came into contact with Aboriginal people and it sparked a big exchange of skills, knowledge and goods. The Aboriginal people helped the Afghans get a better understanding the Aussie landscape and some even got jobs as guides to help the cameleers get by.

Over the years, Muslim cameleers lived side-by-side with Aboriginal people. The cameleers traded sugar, tea, clothing and metal tools with them. Many became friends and some even got married. Today, there are more than a thousand Indigenous Australian Muslims living around the country.

As for the cameleers, they were eventually phased out in the 1930s as this new invention made desert travel a lot easier. Meanwhile the unemployed camels headed back into the desert to start their new careers as wild animals.

The story of the cameleers is something these guys found out about during a visit to the Islamic Museum of Australia. It meant a lot to them so they decided to share it with others through their mosaic.

STUDENT 1: My favourite part is the cameleers simply because during one of the expeditions the horses couldn't make it but the camels made it out.

STUDENT 2: It's got to be Uluru, it's got to be Uluru - it just looks cool.

But most of all, they say it's a celebration of the diversity that makes Australia great.



STUDENT 2: The root of Australia is obviously Indigenous Australia so when you've got modern Australia which is obviously all this multiculturalism combined with the root of Australia it is like a good representation of what Australia really is today.

#### Short and Curly Promo

Is it ever ok to lie?

Should you eat your pet?

And Is Dumbledore really as great as he seems?

These are some of the questions our very own BtN reporter Carl and ABC3 actress Molly are digging into for the second season of Short and Curly; an ethics podcast for kids! You can find it on iTunes, soundcloud or Facebook just search for Short and Curly!

#### Pet Therapy

Reporter: Charlotte Batty

INTRO: Now for a lot of kids around Australia exams are just around the corner. It can be an incredibly stressful time. So one school in Canberra has come up with a unique way to help its students relax. Kittens!

They're cute, cuddly, and a little bit cheeky. But, these kittens have another skill too.

ELEANOR: They're just so cute and lovely. They just make me feel very happy.

For these guys, it's exam time. And things can get pretty stressful.

STUDENT: Very busy. A lot of revision, a lot of work, a lot of coming to school early in the morning.

So, to help them chill out, the school decided to bring in some furry friends. And it seems to be working!

DONNA LAMBERT, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR: They had their exam books, they had kittens in their laps, and they were able to just relax, bring the blood pressure down and spend time with each other in a better environment to get ready for their next exam.

ELEANOR: I had my religion exam this morning and then I just came in here and I've been with the cats ever since.

CHARLOTTE BATTY, REPORTER: But, it's not just cats. Experts say that hanging out with dogs, like Spice here, and other animals, could have some real health benefits.



It's called animal therapy and it's been going on in nursing homes and hospitals for years. The idea is that animals can help people who are stressed feel calmer, or give people who are lonely some companionship.

Animal therapy can also help people with illnesses or disabilities. These dogs are being trained for people who have autism. It's a condition that a lot of kids have and affects how people communicate and cope with changes. Some kids with autism can run off unexpectedly or get really anxious.

So, these dogs are trained to find them and keep them calm. Some studies show that spending time with animals can even improve the way our hearts work, and even make us live longer!

So, these cuddly cats could actually be helping these kids get through more than just their next exam. As for the kittens themselves, all of these guys are currently up for adoption.

And the shelter that brought them says hanging out with the students will help to get them ready for their new homes too.

Who knows, they might even find a brand new owner!

But, for now, they're just loving their role as some of cutest study-buddies around.

#### **PM Finalists**

Now, earlier on we were talking a lot about the upcoming election. But over the past few weeks, ABC Splash have been running their own election. They asked kids to run for Prime Minister by sending in videos sharing what they would do if they were to become the most powerful person in Australia. Here's what the five finalists said.

#### Sport

Aussie Ben Simmons has been selected as the number one pick in the NBA draft by the Philadelphia 76ers.

The young gun has had an impressive college season in the US catching the attention of people like Lebron James and even the President, Barack Obama.

OBAMA: You got an OK basketball player named Ben Simmons in the house.

Lots of people are expecting Ben to be one of the future stars of the game thanks to his size and playmaking abilities. He's just the second Aussie to be taken with first pick. The other was Andrew Bogut back in 2005.

Another Aussie Thon Maker was also taken with the tenth pick by the Milwaukee Bucks. Thon originally came to Australia as a refugee from Sudan.



Aussie rider Jack Miller has won his first ever MotoGP race in the Netherlands.

A slippery track caused chaos as the 3 leading riders all fell giving Miller a chance to grab the win.

It's the first time an Aussie has won since 2012.

Chile has beaten Argentina to win the Copa America Centenario. After a nil all draw the match went to penalties and Argentine star Lionel Messi was the first from his team to miss. Chile went on to take the shootout 4 to 2. After the match a heartbroken Messi shocked fans all around the world by announcing his retirement from international football.

And just before we finish, let's head over to the Euro Championships to check out this cracking goal from Xerdan Shaqiri.

Unfortunately this goal of the year contender wasn't enough to get Switzerland through to the next round as they lost to Poland on penalties.

#### **Indigenous Opera Stars**

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Finally today, late last year, we visited Broken Hill to meet some kids learning to sing opera. The sessions were run by a group travelling through Australia on a mission to find singers to join their Indigenous kids' choir. Now the choir has been selected and they've done their very first performance.

From the Pilbara in far north western WA to Broken Hill in outback New South Wales. This group Short Black Opera has been travelling across Australia searching for Indigenous kids to sing in its Dhungala Children's choir. Late last year we caught up with them on the road.

JESS, SHORT BLACK OPERA: We bring to them the opportunity to learn opera, or just singing as well, and working as a group, as well as the opportunity to potentially be part of the Short Black Opera Company.

Now after months of travelling and singing, the company has picked its future stars and brought them all together in Melbourne to prepare for their first major performance.

KID: Exciting but nervous.

KID: It's really good, so you're learning new things.



The program was set up by famous Indigenous opera singer Deborah Cheetham. She says singing is a natural part of Indigenous peoples' lives and the choir helps the kids connect with their culture.

She's also passionate about keeping Indigenous languages alive. So she's worked with the kids to write original songs to tell their stories in their own languages.

DEBORAH: You see a strength that starts to form in these children that they can use that language.

KIDS: It's fun to speak in your own language and learn other peoples' languages, yeah it's fun.

But there was a surprise in store for these budding stars. Just before the performance the kids found out they'd be joined by a special guest for the show: Indigenous singing legend Archie Roach.

KID: He just came walking through the door and all us kids were looking, we all looked and it was actually Archie Roach.

DEBORAH: We had one or two kids who had birthdays yesterday, and one of them said this is the best birthday present I could ever hope for.

So now it's time to put everything they've learned into action.

ARCHIE ROACH: It's amazing, they have this innocence about them but this discipline also that Deb's taught them.

KID: I'm speechless, it's amazing.

#### **CLOSER**

And that's it for today and this term! For more info on anything you've seen just head to our website and remember you can catch Rookie Reporter Maya's behind the scenes doco this Friday before Australia heads to the polls on Saturday! Stay well and we'll see you after the holidays to give you all the results. See you then.

