

BtN: Episode 19 Transcript 26/07/16

Hello, I'm Nathan and this is BtN.

Coming up today

- New South Wales announces a ban on greyhound racing - we find out why.
- Visit the national championships testing kids on the calculator of the ancient past.
- And it's the craze sweeping the globe. We look at the pros and cons of Pokémon.

Crossbenchers

Rookie Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Stay with us for all of that. But first, we have the little matter of the federal election to get to. Early in the school holidays Aussies went to the polls and the result was super close. Malcolm Turnbull was returned as PM – just. But his troubles might be far from over because of the unique make-up of the Senate. Take a look.

After months of campaigning, it's all smiles for our new, old Prime Minister.

MALCOLM TURNBULL, PRIME MINISTER: Welcome back to government! Welcome back to three years of serving the Australian people.

Malcolm Turnbull and the Coalition are back in government. But on the night of the election, no-one really had any idea what was happening. Voting in some electorates was so close; it took more than a week to finally get a result.

While the Coalition came away with the win, they've only just managed to win a majority of seats here in the House of Representatives to form government. But now, Malcolm Turnbull and the Coalition are about to face a new challenge. The Senate.

There are 76 senators from right around the country. Twelve from each state, and two from each of the territories. And for the government to successfully pass a new bill, the Senate has to vote on it. But at the moment, no one party in the Senate has a majority. So to pass new bills, the government will need the help of Labor, the Greens, or these guys, the crossbenchers. Meaning they'll soon have the power to let the Prime Minister's bills through or reject them.

They're called crossbenchers not because they're really angry forms of seating, but because they don't belong to the major parties. So they sit here between them. And they all have very different views on how the country should be run. Votes are still being counted, but it looks like some of the crossbenchers we'll have include:

Jacqui Lambie, first elected in 2013, she's a former soldier and big on veterans' issues. Pauline Hanson, who wants to stop Muslim people immigrating here. Derryn Hinch, media personality and broadcaster and Nick Xenophon and his team. He's been a popular South Australian senator for a while now, and wants governments to be more honest and accountable.

If the government hopes to get anything through, the PM might need to get some of these key players on side, and if he can't convince them. That's what led to the last election. The Senate blocked two of the government's bills, twice. So to break the deadlock, the government called a double dissolution, kicking every politician out of their seats and sending Australia to the polls early.

This time around the government will be hoping its bills don't keep getting blocked over and over again. Which means for the next few years, the Coalition's going to have to find a way to get along with these now very important political players.

Ask a Reporter

MATT HOLBROOK: Got a question about the crossbench? You can ask me live on Friday! Just head to our website for all the details.

This Week in News

INTRO: Now over the holidays there were a lot of other big stories in the news too. Sadly, many of them were pretty tough to hear about. Here's a roundup to keep you informed.

The world has been rocked by a series of deadly attacks over the past month.

Car bombs in Baghdad, Iraq killed hundreds of people.

While in Afghanistan there were deadly explosions during a protest.

In France a truck was purposely driven into a crowd, killing and injuring many.

And German commuters were hit by an attacker too.

World leaders have condemned each of the attacks and promised tighter security to help protect citizens where possible.

Vigils and days of mourning have been held around the world to honour those caught up in these horrible events.

There have been big problems in Turkey recently too. Members of the military tried to take control of the country from the government. That's called a coup.

It happened because some people in Turkey don't like the way the President's running the country. Hundreds died in the fighting.

But the attempt failed and around seven thousand people have been arrested since.

Many world leaders including our PM Malcolm Turnbull have spoken out against the coup.

And in the US thousands of people have been protesting about how black people are treated by the police.

It followed two incidents where black men were shot by officers.

The issue escalated even further when a man shot and killed five police officers at a protest in Dallas.

President Barack Obama says violence against anyone isn't OK.

And has called for both sides to come together to promote peace rather than violence in the future.

Upsetting News

INTRO: Now many of those stories are important ones to know about but they can be pretty upsetting. So if you're feeling worried about something you've seen now or anytime here's some tips on how you can put your mind at ease.

Most of the time the world is a beautiful place but sometimes it can be scary too.

KID 1: I saw a terrorist attack and I got a bit scared and I felt bad for the people who were involved and I was a bit worried and stuff.

KID 2: Well it made me feel bad for the people in the situation because like they didn't deserve what was happening.

KID 3: It's kind of sad and it makes lots of other people sad, it makes the people who know that person sad, and just makes anyone really sad.

When something bad happens it's completely normal to feel overwhelmed. Adults can feel like this too. But there are some ways you can help yourself to feel better.

First it's worth remembering that these events are in the news because they don't happen very often. And most of the time they happen a long way away from where you live.

Terrifying words or images can be used to tell people what's going on but these are usually the worst, most shocking parts of what's happened. Pictures of people coming to help, treating those injured or supporting others aren't as easy to find. But whenever there is something bad happening you can be sure there are always good people there trying to help.

Finally, sharing how you feel or asking questions if you have some is really important too. So talk to your parents. your teacher or your friends about what's worrying you. You might find just talking about it puts your mind at ease. Helping you to feel better again.

Greyhound Ban

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: New South Wales has announced that it wants to ban greyhound racing. It says too many trainers have been shown to use cruel practices to train their animals. But some people argue a ban isn't the way to go. Take a look.

It's the thrill of the chase that draws plenty of Aussies to the track. In fact, greyhound racing is a billion dollar industry in Australia involving more than 300 thousand speedy dogs. But last year a report by the ABC revealed there was widespread animal cruelty going on behind the scenes. The news caused a lot of outrage so the New South Wales government launched a big investigation. It found dogs were put down just because they weren't able to compete. And small animals were sometimes used as live bait to train dogs to race. After reading the report the New South Wales Premier has decided to ban the sport starting in July next year.

MIKE BAIRD, NSW PREMIER: Anyone that thinks this is an easy decision, it's not. But I also challenge anyone who has read the report, to tell me that this is not the right decision. Australia is one of only eight countries in the world where greyhound racing still happens.

If this ban gets through parliament New South Wales would be the first Aussie state to make it illegal.

Although the ACT's now thinking about banning it too. And animal rights groups would like the rest of the country to follow.

PROTESTERS: "We back the ban! We back the ban!"

But others, including those in the racing industry, say banning the sport is unfair. They say thousands of people will lose their jobs even if they haven't been doing the wrong thing.

"Good, good people are being hurt in an unprecedented manner."

JACINTA: She needs a whole week off. That was a hard run for her.

Jacinta's dad's a greyhound trainer in South Australia. And she's planning to follow in his footsteps when she's old enough.

JACINTA: I've been doing it since I was little and ever since we got greyhounds I was out there brushing them, bathing them, they love you as much as you love them and it's just an awesome sport to be in.

Jacinta is against the NSW ban because she says there are plenty of people in the industry who love and care for their dogs.

JACINTA: A select few people have done the wrong thing and they need to take responsibility for that, but I don't think everybody in the greyhound industry should be tarred with that same brush.

If the ban does go ahead though, animal welfare groups say thousands of ex-racing dogs in New South Wales will suddenly need new homes. Just like Nitro did a few years back.

MICHEALA: Mum saw the dog and absolutely fell in love with him and so did I. He's just so adorable and he was like the biggest one there as well!

Michaela says greyhounds are really sweet dogs that don't need heaps of exercise but plenty of cuddles.

MICHEALA: He has the kindest nature, it's ridiculous. He'll try and get up on the couch with you and lay with you and sometimes he'll end up completely on top of you as well!

And if the NSW ban is introduced she hopes other potential dog owners will consider giving a retiring racer a new run at life.

MICHEALA: I would say to do it, because they are absolutely amazing and they're so much fun to play with.

Poll

Let's stay with greyhound racing for our poll this week.

The question - Do you think greyhound racing should be banned nationwide?

Let us know what you think on our website.

Pokémon Go

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: A new augmented reality video game is taking the world by storm. Pokémon Go has been played by millions of people since it launched a few of weeks ago. But while many people are talking up the benefits others are warning about the dangers.

Lately, I've been a little bit, I don't want to say obsessed, but obsessed with Pokémon Go.

AMELIA: And then they were like "Who even likes cupcakes?" and I was like "Who doesn't!" Matt, Matt, are you even listening to me?

MATT: It's just that there's a Mankey on your shoulder, so.

NATHAN: Matt, can you send this off to Sydney straight.

MATT: I don't have time, there's a Geodude Nathan!

AMELIA: Ooh, I just caught my first Pidgey.

It turns out lots of other Aussies feel the same way.

ADULT 1: Addicted. It's really good.

KID1 : I'm hoping I'm going to catch a Charmander

ADULT 2: I'm after a Dratini today.

Since it launched, Pokémon Go has been downloaded more than 30 million times. It's now even got more active users than Twitter. So why has the whole world gone so crazy for Pokémon? Well a big reason is that Pokémon Go is one of the first examples of an entirely new type of game. The aim is to travel around, hunting for, and catching pocket monsters, or Pokémon, which appear through your phone's camera as if they're actually right next to you.

MATT HOLBROOK, REPORTER: It's called augmented reality, combining the digital with real life. Which is why Carl's face has an Ekans on it. Sorry Carl.

It also uses GPS, so you have to actually visit real world locations to collect items and find Pokémon. Experts say bringing the virtual world into the physical one, like this, could be the future of gaming.

The technology's already being used in things like museum tours, instructional videos, and even in the classroom. But while Pokémon Go isn't the first game to use augmented reality, it's easily the most successful.

DR DIMITRIOS TSIVRIKOS, PSYCHOLOGIST: It gets people to stop only interacting with the digital world and going out and meeting other players.

This whole "running around in the real world" thing is a huge part of the appeal for lots of Pokémon players. And because of that, experts say the game could help fight childhood obesity, and make sure kids get their hour of exercise a day. Some Poke Fans have even organised group walks like this one. They say the game helps them socialise and catch up with friends and visit interesting places.

ADULT 3: I'm out with my friends a lot more walking out in the park and around the streets.

ADULT 4: I'm getting fit so I love it.

ADULT 5: I went on a 10 kilometre walk yesterday with them and like walked my dog as well. Yeah, it was great.

But there are people with a few concerns about Pokémon Go, too. Like players getting hurt because they're not paying attention to where they're going.

CHLOE KIM, SNOWBOARDER: I was driving through a parking lot yesterday and this lady walked right in front of my car because she was trying to catch a Pokémon. It was the scariest thing I have ever experienced in my life.

Police have also asked players not to go onto other people's property, or into dangerous areas, especially at night. And they say kids should only be out exploring with their parents. It's still early days for augmented reality games, like Pokémon Go, and while we don't know exactly what the future of this new genre will look like, we're pretty sure it's not going to look like this.

MATT: Get in the ball, Pigeon!

Quiz

In what year were the first Pokémon games released?

- 1986
- 1996
- 2006

The answer is: 1996

Abacus Champs

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: How would you quickly solve a difficult maths equation if you didn't have a calculator? Well not so long ago the answer was an abacus. We went along to the National Abacus Maths Championships to find out how they work and why they're still being used today.

It might look like a game or a kids' toy but those sliding beads actually have the power to solve some pretty complex maths equations. It's called an abacus. And it's being used here by some young experts at the National Abacus Math Championships!

GIRL: It helps me with subtraction and addition. And it sometimes helps me with multiplication and division.

But how exactly can those little beads really help with maths? This is a really simple abacus. And you can see there are columns with beads in each of them. Now if I want to write a number like one hundred and twenty three, I just move beads in each column.

So three here, two here, and one here. Makes one hundred and twenty three! Now let's just say I want to write a different number like forty-six, I do the same thing. Two, four, six in this column and four in this column makes forty six! Now what about if you want to add those two numbers together? Let's start with 123 and now let's add on our 46. You push six up here and forty here and that gives us one hundred and sixty-nine! Perfect!

Many historians say the very first abacuses appeared thousands of years ago! They were used by traders and merchants across many of the great ancient cultures, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, China, Greece and Rome. Since then the abacus has evolved and changed a lot. And now one of the most popular designs is this Japanese one.

Today abacuses are still used in many parts of the world, including Russia, China, and Africa. Nowadays calculators have mostly taken over but many still learn how to use abacuses to help train their brains.

BOY: By making you more clever in maths.

And the best abacus users like these guys don't just learn how to use them quickly. They also learn how to use the same counting technique in their heads!

GIRL 1: I imagine an abacus in my head and I'm moving the beads with my hands.

Organisers of the event say that while the abacus might be old-fashioned it's still a great way to help kids understand maths. And these competitors agree that the benefits really add up.

GIRL 2: It's only a bit difficult for starters, but not very difficult when you get the hang of it.

GIRL 1: They can get better at maths and enjoy maths.

The winners from this event will be representing Australia at an International Maths competition in Singapore later this year where they'll be using the same ancient calculator that people have been using for thousands of years.

Quiz 2

What type of calculation can't be done on an abacus?

- Subtraction
- Multiplication
- or Division

Answer: Sorry that was a trick question - because you can do them all.

Sport

The Australian Olympic Team say they're not moving into the Rio Olympic village because the apartments aren't up to scratch.

The team was supposed to move in on Sunday, but a spokesperson says there are too many problems like exposed wiring, leaking pipes and blocked toilets.

Olympic organisers say they're working hard to fix the problems but for the moment, athletes are staying in motels instead.

Aussie cyclist Chloe Hosking has won the women's Tour De France. It was a tight race and came down to an impressive sprint finish along the Champs Elysees in Paris.

CHLOE: Just to cross the line first with my hands in the air is crazy.

Unlike the men's three-week event, the women's Tour is a one-day 89 km race.

Aussie F1 Star Daniel Ricciardo has snagged a podium finish at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

He finished third behind Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg.

DANIEL RICCIARDO: This one I can definitely enjoy, for sure the smile's back you know I'm super happy to be here today it's 3 years in a row I've been on the podium at this circuit.

It was a good result for the Aussie bumping him up into third place in the overall standings.

Australia has done pretty well at the World under 20 Athletics Championships in Poland.

Two of the best performers were Alexandra Hulley, who claimed silver in the Hammer Throw and Kurtis Marschall also came 2nd in the Pole Vault.

KURTIS MARSCHALL: It's just an honour to get a medal for my country let alone compete for my country, so yeah, I hope everyone back home is proud of me. I did my absolute best and I hopefully there's bigger and brighter things in the future.

Overall, Australia scored 3 silver and 1 bronze at the championships putting us in 21st place. The US topped the medal tally.

And bike riding went back in time in Brisbane over the weekend for the Penny Farthing championships.

These weird looking bikes get their name from old coins which were big and small like the wheels.

They were super popular back in the 1800s but these days not so much.

BRETT RICHARDSON, PENNY FARTHIN BUILDER: The reason they're not around anymore is because they're damn dangerous.

Drought Aid

Reporter: Callan

INTRO: Finally today, last week marked the launch of Heywire - an ABC competition that encourages young regional people to tell their stories. So to celebrate, we thought we'd check in with one of last year's winners, Callan. Here he tells the story of the day a stranger arrived at his family's cattle station with a pumpkin.

There's nothing more depressing for a farmer than parched land stretching as far as the eye can see. This is the misery that my family have experienced over the last few years.

But there was one moment when this drought-stricken landscape was illuminated by the light of human kindness.

Living in remote north-western Queensland, a hundred kilometres from Longreach, we're not overly prepared for unexpected visits from strangers. My family and I had just retreated from the scorching heat of the day. I was in the kitchen, mum was in the backyard, when a dusty family wagon rolled up to our front gate and things got even weirder.

Even a suburban family would be suspicious of a man bearing a large vegetable paying an unexpected visit. Out here it seemed even stranger. The pumpkin-bearing man was soon accompanied by his wife and daughter laden with cardboard boxes.

What happened next changed my perspective on not only the drought but on the compassion that our urban cousins have for the struggling agricultural industry. They'd been travelling around regional Queensland delivering packages of supplies to struggling farmers. It wasn't this \$50 package of groceries that my family urgently needed. It was the knowledge that we the farmers were not alone in our struggle against the drought and to know that our city cousins cared about their counterparts in the bush.

This is why I believe actions speak louder than words and compassion speaks louder than actions.

Closer

And that's it for today! But the fun doesn't have to end here because our website is open 24/7 for you to enjoy! Stay well and we'll see you next time.