

BtN: Episode 02 Transcript 14/02/17

Hi I'm Nathan Bazley and this is BTN! Coming up today:

- We travel to Darwin 75 years on from the bombing in WWII that nearly wiped it out.
- We take a look at this humble black rock and find out why everyone's been talking about it this week.
- And meet some of the stars of the AFL's new women's league and the kids who want to follow in their footsteps.

Heaps to enjoy coming up but first:

New Political Party

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: While you guys have been back at school for a while last week was the first day back for federal politicians. But their first day was controversial to say the very least. A South Australian Senator announced he is going to leave the Liberal party to start his own so we thought we'd give you a quick rundown on what it takes to start your own political party.

Having a party can be pretty awesome.

BEN: Hey guys, I'm having a party and it's going to be awesome.

You get to pick what kind of party it is.

BEN: It's going to be super hero themed. Wait, wait - Spanish moustaches. Nah, hold on.

You can invite whoever you like.

BEN You're invited and you're invited and you're invited. Just kidding, you can come too. But only for an hour.

And you can work out what everyone gets to do.

BEN: We're going to play pin the tail on the donkey, but wait for it - it's gonna be a picture of my face.

Well, having a political party is kind of similar, just with less balloons and food and stuff. There are heaps of Australian political parties that people can vote for, and they have all sorts of different ideas about what they want to do or stand for.

Some you would've heard of, like the Liberal Party lead by PM Malcolm Turnbull, the Labor Party lead by Bill Shorten, The Greens, The Nationals, Nick Xenophon Team, or Pauline Hanson's One Nation. Then there are heaps of other political parties you might not even know exist, like the Australian Cyclist Party who like cycling, The Australian Recreational Fishers Party who like fishing, The Science Party who like, well, you get the idea.

New political parties often start because people feel their ideas for the country aren't being represented by the parties that already exist.

EDWARD: Come on guys, this is lame. Let's get outta here.

BEN: Guys?

In fact, that's how the two most popular parties in Australia first started out. The Labor Party was founded back in the 1890s to better represent the rights and views of labourers, farmers and other workers. But in the first federal election in 1901, the two top parties were actually the Protectionist Party and the Free Trade Party! The Liberal Party didn't exist until way later in 1944 when former PM Robert Menzies decided to form a new party for those that didn't agree with the Labor Party's ideas.

These days, any Australian adult can start a political party as long as they do a few things like think up a name and create a logo; decide on the aims of the party; recruit members, at least 500 to 550 people; register with the organisation in charge of elections and hold a yearly meeting.

AMELIA, REPORTER: But if someone leaves a party to start a new one it can be pretty controversial. Matt, where are you going?

MATT, REPORTER: Nothing.

This guy, Senator Cory Bernardi, recently announced he'll be leaving the Liberal party and getting his own Bernardi Party started, which will actually be called the Australian Conservatives. He says he's leaving because he feels the PM and the Liberal Party aren't representing his, and other Australian's, traditional conservative views.

SENATOR CORY BERNARDI: Today I begin something built on enduring values and principles that have served our nation so well for so long.

It's a big deal, because Senator Bernardi got his job as a senator when people voted for him as a member of the Liberal party. Now, some people reckon it's unfair because he'll keep that job for the next five years.

YOUNG WOMAN: He got voted in for a specific reason and it would have been promises he made with Liberal and I think if you're going to move you need to be re-elected.

Others reckon, it's just not a good look for the leader of a party when someone leaves. Now, just like anyone starting a party, Senator Bernardi will be hoping his will be a popular one!

This Week in News

To other news now, a massive heatwave has left southern and eastern Australia sweltering with temps hitting 48 degrees in some parts!

That heat also led to fires in rural NSW which have destroyed homes and forced many to evacuate.

The high temps are likely to hang around for much of the week so locals are being asked to take care and stay tuned to emergency services.

On the other side of the country though floods have been the big issue. WA and some parts of the top end have been swamped leading to some dangerous situations.

But the owners of this rain-soaked truck stop say it's actually brought in a bit of extra business!

JENNY FAURIE: Choc a Block, I've never seen so many trucks parked outside our roadhouse before.

To the US now President Donald Trump is not happy with his country's federal court after it refused to bring back his controversial travel ban.

Trump's order temporarily banned people from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Libya from coming into the country.

But the ban was suspended by a judge after a few states challenged it in court.

The government appealed that decision but the court's decided to stick with it.

Trump's administration has promised to come up with a new order and to try again soon.

And finally Flume has just taken out his first Grammy! The 25-year old Aussie producer was awarded Best Dance/Electronic album for Skin and took the chance to rep Australia.

FLUME: Really proud to be here representing Australia, Australian music at the Grammy's on this stage right now.

Meanwhile, Adele swept the top awards taking out Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Album of the Year but gave a big dedication to her idol and fellow nominee Beyonce.

Clean Coal

Reporter: Carl Smith

INTRO: Coal was one of the words of the week last week after heatwave-induced blackouts in South Australia and NSW. Some people used the shortages to argue that we should be burning more coal. Others said we should be trying to use less of it for environmental reasons. But the PM says 'clean coal' could be the solution to both issues. Here's a quick guide on what that is.

Look around you.

Chances are many of the things you see each day were made or are working, thanks - at least in part, to one simple black rock called coal.

CARL SMITH, REPORTER: This is a piece of coal. And there's enough energy in this handful of rock to power this lightbulb for about a day.

Coal is a fossil fuel made of ancient plant and animal matter that has been squashed and heated over millions of years. Now we dig it up and burn it in power plants to heat water. The steam from that spins turbines to generate power.

Globally, billions of tonnes of coal are burnt each year to help power our lives. But despite how remarkable and useful it is coal also has a big, dirty problem. When burnt it releases pollution, including lots of the main greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

REPORTER: For each tonne of this stuff that's burnt for energy, almost three times of that carbon dioxide is released.

Scientists say we've got to cut back on the amount of carbon dioxide floating up into the atmosphere to halt climate change. So, many say scrapping coal as an energy source would be a big help. But lately our PM has been talking about an alternative to getting rid of coal power altogether.

PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL: State-of-the-art clean coal-fired technology.

PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL: If anyone had a vested interest in showing that you could do really smart, clean things with coal it'd be us wouldn't you?

REPORTER: Ok so maybe this isn't exactly what he meant by clean coal. But how exactly can coal be clean then?

Well it's impossible to burn coal and not make pollution. But there are ways to make the process clean-ER.

First up, power plants can be designed to filter out and trap the carbon dioxide released as coal is burnt. Once trapped, it could be stored underground.

Another way is to build power plants that burn coal at higher temperatures, which just so happens to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released.

The government says these alternatives will give Australia a cleaner way to use its massive coal reserves. And it says using coal for energy generation is far more reliable than other clean options like wind or solar, which don't work well in still conditions or cloudy weather.

But some say there are a few problems with the plan to continue using coal in a cleaner way. First, analysts reckon clean coal might actually turn out to be more expensive than other options like wind, solar or gas, while still releasing more greenhouse gases than the alternatives. And while it would be more reliable, the technology is still being tested, so it's not a quick fix.

Weighing up all these things isn't easy and there are lots of different opinions on what path Australia should take. But in the end it'll be the government that'll decide whether to put more coal in Australia's energy mix.

Ask a Reporter

Have you got a question about Clean Coal? Ask me live on Friday during Ask a Reporter! Head to our website for all the details.

Poll

And we'd like to know how you feel about clean coal.

Let us know on our website.

Meanwhile, here's how you voted last week.

BTN Investigates

Have you seen or heard something in the news that you'd like explained? Well now, clarity is only a click away with BTN Investigates. For all the details on how you can submit your topic for BTN to investigate, just head to our website.

Darwin Bombing Anniversary

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: On the 19th of February 1942 Darwin the capital of the Northern Territory was bombed by Japanese forces. It's still the biggest attack ever on Australian soil. Next weekend is the 75th anniversary of that bombing so we found out what it would have been like to be a kid in Darwin at the time.

If you were a kid back in the 1940s, the world was a very different place, but it wasn't just the cars or the clothes; it was that the world was at war for a second time.

Australia was part of a group of countries including the UK, France and the US that were fighting against another group of nations led by Germany, Italy and Japan. In some of those places fighting and bombings were a regular threat, but in Australia most people felt like the war was a long way away. That was until 1941. Authorities started to worry that Darwin - then a small town, but also an important military base - might be in serious danger of being bombed by Japan. The government decided to evacuate more than a thousand women and children on ships.

Wendy was five years old at the time. She was shipped to Perth with no idea when she'd be able to return.

WENDY JAMES: We set off down the dirt track to go to the wharf. My father was standing on the back steps and we turned a corner and we lost sight of him. My mother was so angry and crying. We managed to board the ship just before they pulled up the gangplank and before they pulled up the anchor.

On the 19th February, 1942, war came to Australia's shores. Japan wanted to destroy our country's northern defences, so it could invade Timor and, in the process, send Australia a warning. Just before 10am, Japanese forces launched 188 fighter planes from ships in the Timor Sea and headed for Darwin. They bombed military bases, the town and the harbour, sinking several ships including a US destroyer. A second attack followed soon after.

The two air raids killed at least 235 people and wounded about 400 more. It was, and still is, the biggest attack on Australia in its history, but it wasn't the only one. In total there were more than 90 air attacks on the Northern.

WENDY: This is a photograph taken about six months after we came back from being evacuated.

Evacuees like Wendy were only allowed back into Darwin in 1945 when the war finally ended. By then, she hadn't seen her Dad for about four years. Her family house and a lot of the town she knew had disappeared, but she said it was good to finally be home safe.

WENDY JAMES: There was a sense of relief that everything was peaceful and their families were together again. It was a wonderful sense.

Today, the city has grown and changed a lot, but locals haven't forgotten the day Darwin was bombed.

KIDS: This is Darwin harbour before it was bombed in 1942.

In the lead up to the 75th anniversary, some kids have been learning about it and creating artwork.

KIDS: We are recreating a famous painting of the bombing of the harbour of Darwin. At the moment we're just doing the ocean. We're learning a lot about it and we'd like to know because it's in Darwin's history.

Veterans and locals says it was a sad and important moment in Australia's history that should always be remembered.

Did You Know?

One Japanese bomber crash-landed on an island near Darwin. Its pilot was captured by a local Aboriginal man, making him the first prisoner of war ever taken on Australian soil.

Women's AFL

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: Moving to sport now. The first two rounds of the AFL's new women's comp. have been a huge success with heaps of people tuning in and rocking up in person. The AFL says it's great, not just for the league, but for women's sport in general. But will it encourage more girls to dream of a career in sport? We talked to some of the stars of the new league and their young fans to find out.

COMMENTATOR: For the opening goal, and there's a piece of history for Jassy Garner.

For the new stars of the game, it doesn't get much better than this. Playing in front of a packed crowd, and coming away with the win!

DARCY VESCIO, CARLTON PLAYER: Can't celebrate this one too much because it's just round 1, it feels like a Grand Final.

Fans felt it, too.

SUPPORTER: It was really exciting, kinda wish it was around when I was young.

In fact, way more people showed up to the opening game between Carlton and Collingwood than the AFL expected. The stadium filled up, and thousands had to be turned away. The second round was a huge success, too.

Many hope this popularity will have a wider impact on women's sport in Australia. And that's something the Victorian government wants to encourage too. It's launched a new program called Change Our Game. Seven million dollars is being spent improving facilities for female teams, and getting more people to watch live games. The program's also aiming to encourage more girls to get involved in sport.

DAISY PEACE, MELBOURNE DEMONS CAPTAIN: Even myself, I love opening the paper and looking up to female athletes in other sports, so it's going to make a huge difference.

At this event in Adelaide, players from the Adelaide Crows are trying to do that, too.

PLAYER: In terms of nutrition and I guess hydration's probably the biggest thing moving in to summer football but also in winter as well so you want to make sure you drink lots of fluids.

It's a chance for many of these girls to meet their sporting heroes and even snag a few autographs.

ISABELLA: It's been really cool and it's been amazing to see how their journey's been learning how to play football.

Crows Star, Kellie Gibson says it's really important girls can see there's a career for them in sports like footy.

KELLIE GIBSON, ADELAIDE CROWS: Don't ever let someone tell you that you can't do anything. I got told girls can't play football, look where I am at the moment. So I'm playing for an AFL club, hopefully in the future you girls can do that, just go hard and get the football and have some fun.

And these guys have got the message.

CHLOE: I'm really happy about it, and I'm really excited because I want to play for the women's footy league when I'm older.

GIRL: Speaking to the girls and seeing them on TV has really inspired me because it shows you can do something if you really want to.

Quiz

How many women play Aussie Rules?

80,000

380,000

880,000

The answer - 380,000 - which means 1 in 4 players are now women!

Sport

To other sport now and Melbourne City has become the first club to win back to back championships in the W-League.

City beat Perth Glory 2-nil in last night's Grand Final at Perth Oval.

Player/Coach Jess Fishlock got City off to a great start before Beverly Yanez wrapped up the win.

The Cairns Taipans are in the NBL playoffs after two massive upsets in the final round of the season. Cairns needed to win both of their final matches and they did just that.

Beating runaway league leaders Adelaide not just once but twice!

Meanwhile Melbourne United crashed out of the top 4 with 2 losses. That means Illawarra and Perth have the remaining two spots in the playoffs which start this Thursday.

And Usain Bolt's all-star team has won the first ever Nitro Athletics event in Melbourne.

The newly formed comp features a hand-picked team of athletics stars which compete against national teams like Australia, England and China.

Bolt was his usual dominant self, winning every event he entered and even jogging his way to gold in the 150 metre sprint.

But for many the highlight was Bolt's singing at the award ceremony.

USAIN BOLT: We are the champions.

A nice reminder that you can't be good at everything.

Indigenous Art & Language

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: Finally today, kids from the town of Parkes in New South Wales have helped to create a major piece of art. They recorded their voices in Wiradjuri, the traditional language they learn at school. Those recordings were then played as an important part of the exhibit. Take a look.

These guys are putting their language skills to the test. They're recording their voices in Wiradjuri, a language they've been learning since they started school.

GIRL 1: I really like doing the classes and learning Wiradjuri with all of my friends and the games that we do.

GIRL 2: It's really cool to be able to speak another language.

The recordings will be part of an exhibition by artist, Jonathan. He chose kids from the town of Parkes to be a part of it because all kids here grow up learning and speaking Wiradjuri as part of their regular lessons.

JONATHAN: It just so happens the Wiradjuri word for "remember" is one of the hardest words.

The finished exhibition will actually be in Sydney, and it's mostly about a building that no longer exists. See, back in 1882, fire destroyed a building called The Garden Palace. It held Aboriginal objects dating back to first contact with Europeans. But they were all lost in the fire.

Jonathan wanted a way to celebrate and remember that lost history. So, he made this. It includes 15,000 white shields laid out over 20,000 square metres. And inside, sounds and phrases are played from eight Aboriginal languages. Phrases these guys lent their voices to in Wiradjuri.

Now, they're travelling all the way to Sydney to see and hear their finished work.

GIRLS: You'll probably hear someone say that's me, it'll probably be both of us.

BOY: I think it was really exciting, not many people get to do this, it's a once in a lifetime experience

After walking around, and getting to experience it, these guys are blown away.

BOY: It was amazing seeing what we helped produce like so with all the words that we said recorded, seeing how differently it sounded when we were in there and how it sounds now.

They say they've now learnt how important it is to remember the past and make sure it lives on in new ways.

GIRL 3: Be proud because I made a difference in the world.

Closer

And that's it for today! But there is heaps more stuff for you on our website including class activities for this ep. Thanks for joining me, and I'll see you next week for more BTN.