

BtN: Episode 08 Transcript 28/03/17

Hi I'm Nathan Bazley and this is BTN!

Coming up today

- Which nation is the happiest on earth? We reveal all.
- Meet the kid who managed to save hospital visitors in NSW hundreds of dollars a year.
- And travel with the Roboroos as they take on teams from across the country at the FIRST robotics comp in Sydney.

All that and more coming up soon. But first:

This Week in News

This week we got some horrible news out of London. Let's go to this week's wrap for the latest.

People around the world have been showing their support for the victims of an attack in London.

Four people died and many more were injured when a man drove into pedestrians on the Westminster Bridge and then attacked police outside of Parliament House.

World leaders, including Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, have sent their condolences to the families of the victims.

While some cities turned off the lights or lit up landmarks as a sign of respect.

Police in the UK have since raided homes and arrested several people in connection with the attack.

Everything is okay now but we understand the story might still be pretty hard to hear about. So if that's how you're feeling head to the BTN website. We've got some resources there that might help.

In other news, a cyclone is causing big problems for North Queensland.

Authorities expect Cyclone Debbie to be the worst since Cyclone Yasi back in 2011.

The tropical storm started in the Coral Sea and has been making its way towards Queensland's north coast.

By Tuesday morning it's expected to be a severe category 4 storm bringing winds of up to 240 kays an hour and possible flooding.

Some people have chosen to evacuated, others have been preparing to ride it out just like these guys.

GIRL WITH DOG: We put loose items inside so then they don't break stuff.

BOY: We've tied our things down, taped up our windows and made a safe spot to bunker down.

GIRL: It's so bad that schools around the Whitsundays have been closed.

BOY: And we make sure that we bring in our pets and everything in when our cyclone comes.

For the latest on the storm, tune in to BTN Newsbreak tonight on ABC ME, or join us next week for a complete wrap of what happened.

Racial Discrimination Act

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: One number and one letter had many of Australia's politicians talking this week. 18C is a section of law that talks about racial discrimination. Some politicians say it should be changed to allow people to speak more freely. Others say that would be dangerous. Here's more on the issue. But first a warning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers. This story contains images of people who've died.

Whether sharing their favourite foods, helping tie hijabs, or creating interesting body art; kids all around Australia came together on Harmony Day to celebrate different cultures!

KID 1: My group's a Bollywood group, we're doing Indian stuff.

KID 2: We're making kites out of straws and paper in Afghanistan and Pakistan, kites were really popular.

But on the same day, there wasn't much harmony in Australia's federal parliament! So what was all this arguing about? Well it was all to do with Australia's racial discrimination act. Let's go back in time to find out what that is.

You probably know that racial discrimination has been a big problem in Australia. For a long time, Indigenous Aussies were treated really badly/ They weren't even counted as citizens until the 1960s! There was also something called the White Australia Policy, which stopped many Asian and African people from entering the country.

WOMAN, ARCHIVE VISION: I think there's no two ways about it, we'd soon become outnumbered here if we allowed the Asiatics in.

But in the 1960s, more people started speaking out against discrimination. There were big protests to get equal rights for Indigenous Aussies and people from other cultures.

Then in 1975, the Federal government introduced the Racial Discrimination Act. It made it illegal to treat someone unfairly because of their race. Twenty years later, in 1995, another section was added to those laws, called Section 18C. It made it illegal to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate a person based on their race.

In recent years, that part has caused some controversy. Like in 2011, when a newspaper columnist was found to have broken 18C in two articles he'd written about Indigenous Australians a couple of years earlier. Some people thought the ruling was unfair and campaigned to change 18C, but it never happened.

That brings us up to date! PM Malcolm Turnbull says now his government will have another go at changing it.

PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM TURNBULL: Section 18C has lost its credibility. It lost it a long time ago.

He wants to scrap the words 'offend', 'insult' and 'humiliate' and replace them with the word 'harass'. The idea is to make a clearer line between someone feeling threatened or just having their feelings hurt by comments about their race. The government says the change will help protect free speech, even if it's the kind of speech some people don't like, so only the more serious cases would be taken to court.

PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM TURNBULL: We are strengthening the race hate laws, these are stronger laws, more effective laws because they are clearer laws.

But some politicians are incredibly worried about that change and say it could make people think it's ok to say racist things.

TONY BURKE, SHADOW MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA: Children all around Australia are turning up to their classrooms wearing orange for Harmony Day and they're talking about harmony. The liberal and national politicians in this building are here talking about making it ok to deliver racial insults.

LINDA BURNEY, LABOR MP: If people think that racial discrimination is not an issue in this country, then they should stand in the shoes of people from a migrant background and they should stand in the shoes of Aboriginal people.

The government still has to get enough support in parliament to get its changes through, so it doesn't look like there'll be harmony on this controversial topic anytime soon!

Quiz

Okay next up we're going to be looking at happiness. But first a quiz about it.

Which of these is the name of a chemical in your body that makes you feel happy?

- Joynene
- Serotonin
- White Blood Cells

Answer: Serotonin

World Happiness

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Now, how happy are you? That's what the UN asked thousands of people around the world recently for its annual happiness survey. Here's a look at which countries are the happiest and more importantly, why.

There are a few things that make me feel happy, like popcorn, chocolate and cat videos. I'm also most happy when I'm left alone with those things.

JACK: Hey, I just need you to voice this script? Ah, I'll come back later.

So what makes you happy?

KID 1: What makes me happy is books, I really like reading them and it's like having a little adventure.

KID 2: Playing all my sport because I love sport.

KID 3: I feel happy about my friendships.

KID 4: Hanging out with my family and my friends and eating Italian food.

KID 5: Watching YouTube videos, going shopping, buying bubble gum and money makes me happy!

It's the kind of question the United Nations has been asking thousands of people around the world for its yearly Happiness Survey. It gets people to rate their happiness levels from a not-so-great zero to a very contented ten! That helps them to rank the happiest countries in the world: Australia came in at 9th just behind the Kiwis, which means we should probably all move to New Zealand. But the happiest countries of all were European ones like Denmark, Iceland and Norway which topped the list, now making it the happiest place on earth!

It might make sense being a country of Eurovision winners, brown cheese and frozen pizzas; apparently Norwegians love them so much they go through more than 20 million a year! But it also gets very cold and very dark in Norway. So what exactly is it that makes this country, and the others in the top ten, so darn happy?

Well, the UN says it comes down to a bunch of different factors like how long people expect to live for, how healthy their country's economy is, how much they trust their government, and how well the government looks after its citizens. Norway scored well in all of those areas and Norwegians say it makes sense.

HARALD EIA, NORWEGIAN COMEDIAN: The answer to why Norwegians are happy, it's a bit boring, it's well functioning institutions. The schools, healthcare, police, all the bureaucracy treat people with respect and that trickles down and makes us happy, makes us trust each other, makes us feel a part of the whole community.

One of the things all of the top ten countries share is universal healthcare. It means all citizens have the right to that care without having to pay lots of money for it. The survey also considers people's incomes, but it said happiness is definitely not all about money; it's about having time and freedom to do more than work, and Norwegians again, agree!

MARIN MAAL, RESEARCHER: I think it's the work/life balance. So we have a big safety net, so we get free education, free healthcare and it's really good. We're close to the nature.

But if there are super happy countries, then there are also less happy ones. Several African nations scored the lowest on the survey, along with Syria. That's because those countries have been affected by things like war, famine, or corrupt governments. There are also some happier, developed countries that have been dropping on the list, like the US.

Researchers say the happiness report is really important because it helps to show which policies are working, so governments around the world can help to make all of their people a little bit happier!

Ask a Reporter

Have you got a question about World Happiness? Ask me live on Friday during Ask a Reporter!

Head to our website for all the details.

And a quick reminder later in the year you can get involved in our BTN Kids' Happiness Survey too. Stay tuned for all the details in September

National Archives

Reporter: Natasha Thiele

INTRO: Next we're heading to Canberra where one government department has nearly finished moving 15 million documents and artefacts to a new home. We join them as they transported some delicate material samples to find out what's involved and why these artefacts are so important to our national history.

These big, heavy leather books are getting some pretty special treatment. They're being boxed up, wrapped in plastic and placed in trucks on their way to a new purpose-built home. But what's inside these mysterious books that deserves such care and attention?

CHERYL JACKSON, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA: This particular volume can contain line drawings, fabric swatches, early photographic processes, letters and annotations in all sorts of different inks.

Okay, so they might not sound too exciting. But according to the National Archives of Australia, they're an important part of our nation's history and deserve to be protected!

The National Archives has been described as the memory of our nation. It was set up more than 50 years ago to do a few big jobs. Collect, preserve and allow the public access to Australia's most valuable government records and documents and to make sure the government and its agencies keep track of them.

There are more than 40 million items in the Archive's collection from records on births, deaths and marriages to confidential documents like this one from the 60s about an apparent UFO sighting in South Australia. There are also books, artwork and photos and even scientific artefacts like this whale tooth from 1964. Most of this stuff is held in Canberra, but there are storage sites in each state and territory too.

REPORTER: A lot of the items have been digitised so people can easily find what they need on the National Archives website. So for example let's look up a lighthouse I visited in South Australia - let's see what we can find.

Or you can come in and see it in real life.

REPORTER: So you found something?

NICK GLEGHORN, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES SA: I did, so this is a lighthouse keeper's logbook for Sturt Lighthouse, Kangaroo Island from 1857 as you can see it's not that easy to read.

REPORTER: Very hard to read!

NICK: And this book sort of details daily weather conditions but occasionally there'll be things like wrecks that have happened and a bit an insight of what life was like for a lighthouse keeper.

But with so much new stuff being sent to the National Archives each year, the head office in Canberra was running out of room. So they decided to build a new home with specially designed thick concrete walls and plenty of cold storage to keep all of their important documents and items protected for the future.

Moving more than 15 million items into the new site has been a huge task but they're almost done. And while it hasn't been easy, the organisation says that it will not only allow them to continue preserving Australia's cultural heritage, but make it easier for everyone to learn about the people and events that helped shape our country.

Did You Know?

Did you know? The 40 million items held by the National Archive takes up 380kms of shelf space!

Parking Win

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: Recently the New South Wales Premier announced that parking fees at state hospitals are soon going to be a lot cheaper. The change comes after months of campaigning from a teenager named Gidon. We checked in with him to find out how he feels about his big win. It was the moment 14-year-old Gidon had been waiting for.

GIDON: I'm now unbelievably proud to be able to say that the Premier and the Health Minister are introducing a policy which is going to do amazing things for the families.

After months of campaigning, he had successfully convinced the NSW government to lower the cost of hospital parking for families like his. Gidon's story started last year when he began a petition asking for the government to put a limit on how much hospitals can charge for parking. Gidon has a rare blood condition. That's meant a lot of trips to hospitals over the years and during that time he says he's noticed how expensive parking can be. In fact, since he was diagnosed his parents have paid more than \$10,000 in parking fees, just so he can be treated.

GIDON: It actually stops people from visiting them cause when it's going to cost \$15 or \$20 to visit someone and you could be spending that on food for that night and you might not be able to afford that then you won't get visitors

Gidon's petition was a huge success, with more than 70,000 people signing it.

GIDON: I never could have imagined that, that petition would go on to receive 70,000 signatures which really was amazing for me and it would start a national conversation about the issue of hospital parking fees which as you know hit people who are vulnerable the hardest.

And now the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has responded.

GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN, NSW PREMIER: Today is about people making a difference. A teenager like Gidon making a difference.

She announced a huge reduction in parking fees at all NSW hospitals. She says regular visitors will get a 90% discount on what they pay now.

GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN, NSW PREMIER: I'm very pleased to be able to make this announcement. This is a huge boost for families, for patients and for carers who are visiting all our public hospitals. And it's a huge boost for anyone who appreciates the stress patients and families go through when they're a regular visitor to a hospital.

Gidon couldn't be happier to see his hard work pay off.

GIDON: It gives me a really good feeling to know that I've made a change, that change has happened. I think what I would like to say to all to all the other people especially kids who want to start change is that it really does sometimes seem impossible that someone that doesn't have a vote and who doesn't have as much democratic power really as adults do. I think what this has shown is that it really is possible to do these things that we still can affect our country and that small people can make great change.

Kind Classrooms

Now next week we wrap up Kind Classrooms with a look at all the things you've done to help make Australia a better place.

To be included we need to get videos of your kind deed by the 29th of March. It doesn't have to be polished but it does have to show us what you did and why.

For more details, or to upload your videos just head to our website.

Sport

On Saturday afternoon, footy fans packed Carrara stadium on the Gold Coast to witness sporting history!

SPECTATOR: Go Girls!

The Brisbane Lions and the Adelaide Crows went head to head in the first ever Womens AFL Grand Final.

It was a tough-fought match but the Crows took the win 35 to 29.

Erin Phillips was voted best on ground collecting a game-high 28 disposals and kicking two vital goals in the third quarter.

Professional female cricketers in Australia will have their pay more than doubled if a new deal goes through.

Under the proposed deal female international players would be paid 179 thousand a year up from about 80 grand now.

Cricket Australia is currently negotiating with the Aussie Cricketers association which represent the country's top players.

It says the new deal would be a big step forward for the women's game...

To soccer, Sydney FC have toasted their Premiers Plate success with a three-nil win against the Perth Glory.

The Sky Blues had already clinched top spot on Saturday night but didn't ease off in Perth, claiming their 18th win of the season.

Sydney's current total of 59 points is also now a record for the competition.

Captain Alex Brosque was pleased to claim the club's first silverware since 2010.

It's been a nightmare start to the F1 season for Aussie ace Daniel Ricciardo in the Melbourne Grand Prix over the weekend.

Ricciardo had to retire because of engine problems.

Germany's Sebastian Vettel was eventually crowned the winner.

And Austrian ski champ Stefan Kraft has broken the world record for the longest competitive ski jump!

He actually looks like he's flying in this incredible 253 metre jump that just seems to keep going and going and going.

Robot Comp

Rookie Reporter: Amber

INTRO: Finally, we're going to hear from Amber and her robotics team the RoboRoos. Recently they flew to Sydney to take on teams from around the country at the First Robotics Championship. How did they go? Take a look.

Hi BTN my name's Amber and we're building robots. We're part of a competition team that builds robots for FRC which is the First Robotics Challenge. For the first couple of weeks we have what is called the design phase where we get a group of people around and design what type of robots we are going to build. The most challenging part would be agreeing on a design, because a lot of people have very strong opinions about particular things about the robot and you have to compromise with them.

We have a mechanical team - which is basically just the team that builds everything so they do all the drilling and the hacksawing and putting stuff together. We have the electrical team - which does all the wiring which makes the robot work. We do the software - which is kind of writing the software to make the robot work. We have pneumatics - which is linking up all the air hoses together to make things move in and out. Do we have anything else?

Behind us we have multiple prototypes of the same robot. We have a Bob, we have a Kevin and we have a Steve, it's very hard deciding what to go with.

This year's competition is called FIRST Steamworks, so it's a steampunk themed type of competition. So this is the FIRST robotics competition and a match is about to start so people are getting excited, we're dancing to the music, It's really, really exciting. So far we've assembled the robot in the pits, we've got the software working and in our first match we scored 168 points which is a lot and we've won our first match which is a good start to the day.

Right now we're in the queuing lane so we're queuing for our next match. It's a shared field and you will be competing a game of about 2 minutes and 30 seconds which is quite short when you're actually driving the robot in competition. We have to collect

gears from loading stations and place them on air shifts, we have to shoot balls or load balls into boilers and we have to climb up a rope.

We're going to Houston!

Working with people here is really good cause everyone has really similar interests. We're all interested in STEM, which is Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. So it's really good having those people around you and its positive energy which is really good.

Closer

The RoboRoos won the inspiration award in Sydney which means they've been invited to compete in the world championships in the US. Great work guys!

And that's it for today! But there is heaps more for you on our website, including resources and class activities for this ep plus instructions for sending us your videos for Kind Classrooms. Thanks for joining me, and I'll see you next week for more BTN.