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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

ALANNA LESLIE:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about India, Nigeria and the United States.

But first...

Last month, Australians held a vote on whether to change their Constitution to recognise the political rights of Indigenous Australians.

It would have led to the creation of a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, that would have had a say on policy that affects the indigenous population.

But Australians overwhelmingly voted no.

Sarah Allely in Sydney has been finding out how Australians are responding to the result.

News Jingle

Newsreader: Well, the ballot papers have been counted and the results are in Australia has overwhelmingly voted no in the historic voice to Parliament referendum

SARAH:

Many Australians are reeling from last month's referendum result which rejected the suggestion of creating an indigenous Voice to parliament.

Professor Larissa Behrendt is from the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology Sydney.



Larissa Behrendt: A very important meeting happened at Uluru; a statement was written that asked Australia to once again consider the ideas of Voice, Truth and Treaty. And coming out of that, a referendum was proposed that would see a voice to parliament included in the constitution as a way of recognising indigenous people in our founding document.

SARAH: So why did this recent referendum fail?

Larissa: There needs to effectively be support from both sides of government for a referendum to succeed. Unfortunately, once the referendum was announced, the coalition opposition decided that they were going to vote against it.

SARAH:

This meant that the campaign leading up to the referendum became very political, divisive and there was a lot of misinformation, particularly from white Australians arguing against the Voice. But there were also differences in opinion amongst First Nations communities. One Indigenous political leader claimed colonisation had been very good for First Nations and so the Voice to parliament wasn't necessary. Other Indigenous leaders and advocates argued the referendum didn't go far enough. They wanted something more powerful, like a treaty. One of those was Ben Abbatangelo.

Ben Abbatangelo: You know, throughout the campaign there was a lot of talk about, you know, is that right to be heard? It's actually our right to be... making decisions, not actually advising the decision makers.

SARAH: Ben's a young First Nations writer and advocate. He spoke out against the Voice in the lead up to the referendum.

Ben: The proposal that was taken to the Australian people was like littered with one-way concessions. It was really much about, when I looked at it, making us refugees in our own lands and further legitimising the penal colony.



SARAH: Tanya Hosch is a First Nations woman who has been trying to get constitutional recognition for Indigenous Australian's for more than a decade. She was a Director of the Yes23 campaign.

Tanya Hosch: I think there's a bit of healing that needs to be had. You know, people are speaking to me about, I feel like every time I walk into a room now, I have to assume that 60 percent of the room don't support me or don't see me or don't want me there. But I also feel that understanding the degree in which some people would work against our advances in this way was probably a bit of a wake-up call in some ways.

SARAH: Back to Professor Larissa Behrendt.

Larissa: So, you know, I think it'll come back to First Nations people just keeping on doing the work they've always done and hope that eventually Australia might decide that its 200 plus year constitution might recognise the culture that's been here for over 65, 000 plus years.

SARAH: This is Sarah Allely reporting from Australia for Newsreel World.

ALANNA: Thanks Sarah

News Bed

The Collins English Dictionary has chosen AI as its "word of the year" for 2023.

Every year the publisher chooses a word that's had particular prominence in public life. The company's managing director Alex Beecroft said that the growth of Artificial Intelligence meant that its abbreviation, AI, was now "ubiquitous and embedded in our lives".

Other contenders for the word of the year included "Greedflation" - referring to when companies use high inflation as an excuse to raise prices - and "Nepo baby" - meaning a person whose success could be said to be linked to having famous family members.



ALANNA:

The Indian software billionaire Narayana Murthy has provoked outrage after he suggested that young people should be prepared to work 70 hours a week - to improve the country's productivity.

He made the comments in an interview for a business podcast - in which he also said young Indians are picking up as he put it "not-so-desirable habits from the West'.

The interview went viral and he faced a fierce backlash from people saying his comments didn't take into account the importance of work-life balance.

In other parts of the world most people are re-evaluating their relationship with work in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. And some countries are considering a four-day working week.

ALANNA:

A fourteen-year-old in Virginia, U.S.A, has been named America's "top young scientist" after developing a soap that can help treat skin cancer.

The soap is made from compounds which reactivate a type of cell that guards the human skin.

Heman Bekele's interest in helping find a treatment for skin cancer came from spending the first four years of his life in Ethiopia, where he saw people working in the sun all day.



ALANNA:

The Nigerian music industry is seen by many in the country as a massive economic force. It's estimated to generate over \$2 billion dollars a year in revenue.

It's due, in part, to the growing popularity of Afropop – a genre pioneered by Nigerian artists all over the world.

John Iwodi is in Abuja Nigeria to speak to artists at the forefront of this musical revolution.

JOHN IWODI:

In Nigeria, the vibrant world of Afropop is taking center stage, captivating the hearts of the youth. Today I'm here at Double Billz Studio in Abuja to meet with young artists and explore the profound impact that Afro-pop has had on them.

King Voodoo: My name is King Voodoo and I am an Afrobeat artist.

JOHN: What makes Afropop unique compared to other music genres?

King Voodoo: It's the elements in it. The traditional Nigerian elements that have been infused into the music. Our culture makes it unique.

JOHN: Afropop is not just a genre. It's a cultural phenomenon that resonates with Nigeria's youth, offering them a unique identity and a sense of belonging.

King Voodoo: This present generation, there is this need to have fun. And Afrobeat gives you a lot of that. That's not entirely what it's for, but Afro music gives you the room.

Issac Elijah: My name is Isaac Elijah. My stage name is Isaac. Like, with the help of Afropop, one will be able to pass message to other people in their world.



King Voodoo: Afropop gives you the room to do whatever you want. It's like our comfort zone.

JOHN: Afropop music has its roots in Afrobeat music, which is a genre that was made famous in the 1960s to 1970s by Fela Kuti. In those days, the musicians used their music to raise awareness about political and social issues.

Isaac Elijah: Many people see Afro Pop as, uh, I'm gonna be dancing to this beat. We're gonna be doing this. No, if one will be given opportunity to express themselves through the, the help of Afropop, you talk about many things about, politics about things that are happening around us.

JOHN: The commercialization of Afropop means that it is now gaining popularity on a global scale, transcending borders and cultures.

Isaac: Afropop is taking... It's taking over.

King Voodoo: Thank God that it's going global now. It's not even going... It's already global now. Which means that if I come out as an artist and I'm doing very good and I'm successful... I don't have to stress much to be recognized as an international artist.

JOHN: As Afropop continues to gain popularity abroad, it is clear that it is more than just a music genre. In Nigeria, it's the cultural movement that is shaping the future.

I'm John Iwodi reporting from Abuja, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

ALANNA: Thanks John.

That's all from me today. Speak to you soon - bye!