1. What was the cause of the recent WA bush fires?
   c. a permitted burn that got out of control - An entire town on Western Australia’s southwest coast fled to the local beach in the face of a raging bushfire that claimed over thirty homes.

2. What was unusual about a suitcase abandoned at a Sydney cafe last week?
   b. it contained almost a million dollars.

3. Which writer of children’s fiction has been giving evidence at court about how British newspapers treat celebrities?
   c. J K Rowling - She is extremely unhappy that her children have been targeted by tabloid reporters.

4. What was found in a box of mining equipment that had been shipped from the US to Queensland and has authorities concerned about their possible spread?
   c. fire ants - Fire ants have been found in a box of mining equipment shipped from the US to Queensland’s Western Downs, sparking fears the deadly ants may have spread.

5. What is White Ribbon Day?
   c. a day to remember that violence against women is not ok - Celebrities, politicians and high-ranking police officers condemned violence against women as part of the 200 events organized around Australia for White Ribbon Day.

6. The intense Christmas shopping season has begun in the US with shoppers getting extremely competitive over sale items. What is one lady accused of doing in a Los Angeles Walmart store to get the present she wanted?
   b. using pepper-spray on other shoppers - The woman is accused of pepper-spaying 20 other shoppers in the opening rush to claim an X-Box console. The start of the Christmas sale season in the US is known as Black Friday.

7. Two plane passengers are suing Jetstar and Virgin for the same sort of incident, what happened to them?
   a. they were burnt by spilled coffee - Two plane passengers are launching court action in Melbourne against the airlines. Both passengers suffered severe burns when flight attendants allegedly spilt coffee on them.

8. NASA has developed a remote controlled vehicle to explore what location?
   a. Mars - An unmanned Atlas 5 rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral in Florida on Sunday, launching a US$2.5 billion nuclear-powered Nasa rover toward Mars to look for life habitats there.

9. Daredevil Dane Searls, 23, suffered fatal injuries when he unsuccessfully attempted to dive from a Surfers Paradise balcony into a pool. What sort of extreme sport was he a star in?
   c. BMX

10. New Zealand had an election on the weekend and the Prime Minister and his party were voted in again. What is the name of New Zealand’s Prime Minister?
    b. John Key - The Prime Minister and his National Party have been in power since 2008 and won around half of all the votes in the election.

11. The Wallabies had a convincing 60-11 win over a world combination team. What is this team known as?
    b. The Barbarians

12. Why is there a review being conducted on a hundred different roads in NSW?
    a. to review the speed limits on those roads - The community has been consulted on which roads they would like to see changes made to the speed limit.

13. The message of the $3.8 million Get Ready Queensland campaign is 'If it's flooded, forget it'. What does this message mean?
    a. people shouldn’t go into flood waters - Emergency Service say each year lives are lost as a result of people making the choice to venture into floods.

14. Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary have been visiting Australia recently what country are they Prince and Princess of?
    b. Denmark - The royal couple were in Australia for a week long visit partly to promote closer ties between Australian and Danish companies and a heavy emphasis on research and development in the alternative energy market.

15. A Qantas marketing campaign backfired when unhappy customers got to make their feelings public. What was Qantas using for the campaign?
    c. Twitter - the competition encouraged people to talk about what they liked best when traveling on Qantas, instead people used the chance to criticise and make fun of Qantas’ service.

VISUAL ANSWERS

1. New Zealand
   (The crash occurred while raising a big Christmas tree)

2. Norfolk Island

3. Egypt
   (Protests are again occurring, this time against the new military government)

4. b. Thanksgiving
   (The US President always holds a ceremony where two turkeys are granted freedom rather ending up on a dinner plate)

5. Michael Clarke
   (Captain of the Australian cricket team.)