

Newspaper Report Years 7 to 9: **Twenty-one-year old recovers from coma and moves into Chinese cult status**

Twenty-one-year old recovers from coma and moves into Chinese cult status

By Brendan Lucas

A Melbourne university student who spoke fluent Mandarin after waking from a coma in July this year has become a Chinese community TV sensation.

Ben McMahon, 21, studied Chinese at high school, but found his language skills blossomed following his near-miraculous recovery from a horrific head-on car crash 17 months ago.

The renewed love of Chinese culture this brought has now taken the Kew man from simple survival to stardom.

He is now one of the hosts of a Chinese variety talk show due to air across Australia later this year.

"Most of it's hazy, but when I woke up seeing a Chinese nurse, I thought I was in China," he recalled of his ordeal.

"It was like a dream. It was surreal - it was like my brain was in one place but my body in another," the Melbourne University student said.

"I just started speaking Chinese - they were the first words that left my mouth."



Ben McMahon has become a Chinese community TV sensation after miraculously

Headline to catch reader's interest (sentence case)

By-Line

Lead paragraph: *what, where, who, when, why*

24 words

Opinions of author: 'near-miraculous, horrific head-on'

Past action verbs: studied, found, taken

Use of present tense (has now, is now)

Next most important details

Contractions only in direct speech (eg. it's)

Further details about his abilities

Medical jargon is avoided; simple vocabulary used

Captioned picture

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| <p style="text-align: center;">recovering from a coma. Picture: Jon Hargest</p> <p>A dozen episodes of the first season of <i>Au My Ga</i> (Oh My God) are now being recorded in Melbourne. Its aim is "bridging the relationship" between the two nations' cultures.</p> <p>Episodes range from how to start a relationship, food exploration, entertainment, and working holidays.</p> <p>"The show aims to promote and advance the understanding between Australia and China," Mr McMahon said.</p> <p>"I think that is the key - it signifies a big step towards creating stronger ties, while providing a local perspective."</p> <p>The dynamics between the three hosts provides a mixture of professional and personal challenges.</p> <p>"This has got to be the most difficult but enjoyable thing I have ever done," Mr McMahon said.</p> <p>"I think sarcasm is a big thing in Australia. Some of the other presenters don't necessarily pick up on it. I have had to hold back.</p> <p>"I also get tired a little bit more easily. After the coma, I had to sleep quite a lot; however, fortunately enough, apart from that and a couple of scars, I am lucky," he said.</p> | <p>Further details about the show McMahon is hosting</p> <p>Short sentences show economical use of words</p> <p>Use of direct speech for quotes</p> <p>Most paragraphs one sentence in length</p> <p>Link to cultural differences</p> <p>Same speaker, open inverted comma to continue to next paragraph</p> <p>Reference to consequences / recovery from coma to conclude</p> |
| <p>From: http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/twenty-one-year-old-recovers-from-coma-and-moves-into-chinese-cult-status/story-fni0fit3-1226677827360. Retrieved 11 December, 2013.</p> | |