



Teacher Resource

Lowitja O'Donoghue

Women's History Month

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What were some significant achievements in Lowitja O'Donoghue's life?
2. What was Lowitja O'Donoghue's first job?
3. How did Lowitja help Indigenous people?
4. Which award did Lowitja receive?
 - a. Australian of the Year
 - b. The Order of Australia
 - c. Order of the British Empire
 - d. All of the above
5. Why is she an important Australian?

Activity: Personal Response

Respond to the BTN Lowitja O'Donoghue story as a class. Students will complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- Lowitja O'Donoghue is an important Australian because...
- It was interesting to learn...
- These are five words that I would use to describe Lowitja O'Donoghue ...
- This story made me feel...
- It is important to celebrate Lowitja O'Donoghue because...



EPISODE 8

26th March 2024

KEY LEARNING

Students will recognise and celebrate Australian women who have made significant positive changes in society.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3 and 4

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations.

HASS – Year 5 and 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

History – Year 6

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

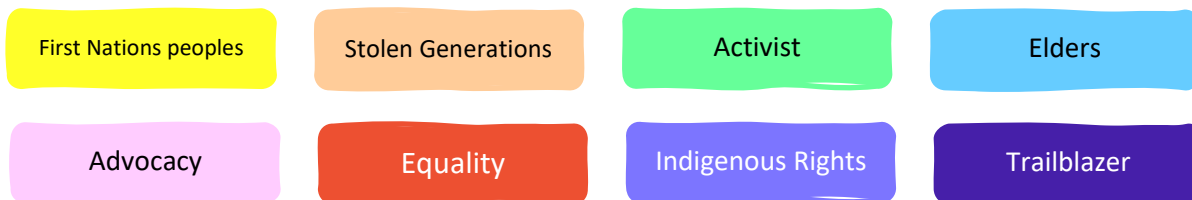
HASS – Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

This document contains the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

Activity: Vocabulary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Lowitja O'Donoghue story. Below are some words to get them started. As a class discuss the meaning of each word/terminology and how it relates to Lowitja O'Donoghue and her story.



Further Investigation

- What is advocacy? Ask students to give an example of when Lowitja O'Donoghue was an advocate on Indigenous issues.
- Lowitja O'Donoghue was one of many Indigenous children separated from their families. Take the time to learn what your students know about the Stolen Generations. As a class, find out more about Lowitja O'Donoghue's story. Refer to this [Educators Guide](#) to the Stolen Generations (*Healing Foundation*).

Activity: Research and Document

5 W's

Students will choose one key event in Lowitja O'Donoghue's life and research as much as they can about it. They will write a summary on the key event which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?






KWLH

The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on Lowitja O'Donoghue and her advocacy for Indigenous rights. After watching the BTN Lowitja O'Donoghue story, students will develop their own question to research in more detail.

What do I k now?	What do I w ant to know?	What have I l earnt?	H ow will I find out?

Timeline

Students will research and document the story of Lowitja O’Donoghue, to teach future generations about her life, her achievements, and her challenges. They will use a timeline to document their findings. Below is a timeline highlighting Lowitja O’Donoghue’s trailblazing achievements. Visit the [Lowitja O’Donoghue Foundation website](#) to read and learn more about her biography and achievements.


<p>1954</p> <p>Lowitja O’Donoghue became the first Aboriginal person to train as a nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.</p>  <p>ABC News</p>	<p>1973</p> <p>Lowitja O’Donoghue was appointed as regional director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in SA, the first woman to hold a position like this in a federal government dept.</p>  <p>ABC News</p>	<p>1976</p> <p>Lowitja O’Donoghue was the first Aboriginal woman inducted into the Order of Australia.</p>	<p>1992</p> <p>Lowitja O’Donoghue was the first Aboriginal person to address the United Nations General Assembly, in Geneva.</p>  <p>ABC News</p>	<p>2000</p> <p>Lowitja O’Donoghue was the first Indigenous person to give the annual national address as part of Australia Day celebrations.</p>
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Activity: BTN Stories

Visit BTN’s collection of stories which focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ culture and issues.

After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).

[Collection of BTN stories about Indigenous culture](#)

<p>Indigenous Culture</p>  <p>▶ 3m 10s</p>	<p>Five Dollar Design</p> <p>The Reserve Bank is looking for a design to replace the image of the Queen on our five dollar note.</p> <p>Tue 12 Mar 2024 at 12:00am</p>	<p>Learning The Yidaki</p> <p>Playing the Yidaki helped Malakai to connect with his culture and improve his health.</p> <p>Tue 27 Feb 2024 at 12:00am</p>		
<p>Young Pilot</p> <p>Tue 19 Mar 2024 at 12:00am</p>	<p>Finding Confidence in Performing</p> <p>Kattana, who tells us how a school production of the Sapphires helped her find confidence and friendship.</p>	<p>Voice Referendum Result</p> <p>After months of campaigning and debates, Australians have voted in the Voice to Parliament referendum.</p>	<p>Voice Referendum</p> <p>Australians have been given a date for the referendum on constitutional recognition and a voice to parliament for First Nations people.</p>	<p>Garma Festival 2023</p> <p>The Garma Festival is a celebration of First Nations cultures that takes place at Gulkula on Yolngu country every year.</p>

Activity: Portrait

In this activity students will identify and understand the importance of individuals who have used their voice to make a positive change in society. As a class discuss the importance of individuals or groups who have used their voice to make a positive change in society and brainstorm a list of people that have made a significant impact.

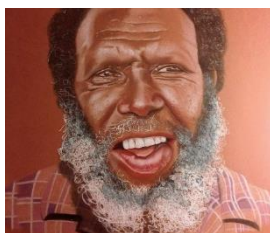
Below are examples of Australians who have fought for the right to voice, such as civil rights activists, suffragettes, or advocates for free speech.



[ABC Fierce Girls – Oodgeroo Noonuccal](#)



[BTN – Australian Women in Politics](#)



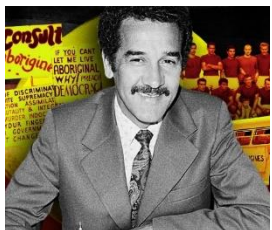
[BTN – Mabo Day](#)



[ABC Fierce Girls – Edith Cowan](#)



[ABC Fierce Girls – Fanny Finch](#)



[BTN – Charlie Perkins](#)



[ABC Fierce Girls – Nyadol Nyuon](#)



[BTN – Freedom Ride](#)

Students will then choose one of these people or groups that they find inspiring. Alternatively, they can choose someone in their community who has used their voice to make a positive change in society.

Students will use the following as a guide:

- Research the individual and record their achievements, their values, and the impact they have had on society.
- Use a range of primary and secondary sources during your research including biographies, articles, letters, speeches, artworks, photographs, and news stories.
- Plan and create a portrait of the person or group. Think about the expressions, symbolism, and colours that reflect the person, their values, and their impact.
- Explore and experiment with different techniques and mediums to produce a portrait.
- Present your portrait to the class, introducing who the person is, the impact they had and then explain your portrait and what each of the elements in the portrait mean.
- Organise a class exhibition of your artworks to share with the school and local community.

Useful Websites

- [Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue](#) – Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation
- [How Lowitja O'Donoghue changed the way Australia looked at Aboriginal affairs](#) – ABC News
- [Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG: biography and achievements timeline](#) – Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation
- [Classroom resources to help schools promote a broader understanding of the Stolen Generations](#) – ABC Education