Teacher Resource

Focus Questions

As a class, discuss the stories featured in the episode of BTN Classroom and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following focus questions.

David Jones Future

1. What year did the first David Jones department store open?
2. What product did David Jones mainly sell when it first opened?
    a. Fabric
    b. Handbags
    c. Shoes
3. What does voluntary administration mean?
4. How has the recent decline of David Jones affected people?
5. What challenges are retail stores facing today?

Midterm Elections

1. How often are midterm elections held?
2. Which political party recently won US Senate seats in Kansas, South Carolina and Texas?
    a. Republicans
    b. Democrats
3. Why does Jaden think that fewer people voted Republican in the midterm elections?
4. Why is it important to care about politics?
5. What questions do you have about this story?

First Nations Veterans

1. What was Leonard Waters' role during WWII?
2. Who was the first Aboriginal Australian to be commissioned as an officer?
3. What skill did a special unit of mostly Yolngu people use to help patrol Australia's northern coastlines during WWII?
4. What challenges and discrimination have First Nations veterans experienced? Give an example.
5. Name three things you learnt watching the BTN story.

Check out the teacher resource on the Archives page.

EPISODE 32
10 November 2026

KEY LEARNING
Students will view a range of BTN stories and use comprehension skills to respond to a series of focus questions.

CURRICULUM
English – Year 4
Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning, to expand topic knowledge and ideas, and evaluate texts.

English – Year 5
Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning to evaluate information and ideas.

English – Year 6
Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning, and to connect and compare content from a variety of sources.

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Big Things

1. Before watching the BTN story try to think of as many Australian Big Things (giant landmarks) as you can.
2. Which town recently got the Big Sultana? Locate on a map of Australia.
3. What industry does the Big Sultana represent?
4. When, where and why did Big Things originate?
5. What's your favourite Australian Big Thing? Give 2 reasons.

Portrait Artist

1. What TV show did Jazz recently win?
2. What famous Aussie did Jazz paint a portrait of?
3. Which gallery is Jazz's portrait hanging in?
4. What other art prize did Jazz win recently?
5. What advice does Jazz give about becoming an artist?

Check out the teacher resource on the Archives page.

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Teacher Resource

First Nations Veterans

EPISODE 32
10 November 2026

KEY LEARNING
Students will learn about First Nations military service in Australian history.

CURRICULUM
HASS – Year 5 and 6
Changes in Australia's political system and to Australian citizenship after Federation and throughout the 20th century that impacted First Nations Australians, migrants, women and children.

Develop questions to investigate people, events, developments, places and systems.

Locate, collect and organise information and data from pri mary and secondary sources in a range of formats.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people please be aware that this resource contains images and names of deceased persons

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 was Leonard Waters' role during WWII?
2. Who was the first Aboriginal Australian to be commissioned as an officer?
3. What skill did a special unit of mostly Yolngu people use to help patrol Australia's northern coastlines during WWII?
4. What challenges and discrimination have First Nations veterans experienced? Give an example.
5. Name three things you learnt watching the BTN story.

Activity: Personal Response

Respond to the BTN First Nations Veterans story as a class. Students will complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- What was the first thought or feeling you had when the BTN First Nations Veterans story ended?
- How did you feel learning about Indigenous war veterans?
- What surprised you about the story?
- Why is it important to learn about Indigenous war veterans?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN story as a class. Ask students what they know about Indigenous war veterans. Use the following questions as a guide:

- What rights did Indigenous people have when Australia was involved in World War I and World War II?
- Why do you think some Indigenous soldiers chose not to tell others about their cultural background while serving?
- Why do you think it took so long for many Indigenous veterans to receive recognition for their military service?
- What questions do you have about the story?



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Activity: Indigenous Service

Students will learn more about the contributions First Nations peoples who served in the Australian military. They can use the following questions to help guide their research or develop their own questions.

Joining the military

- Which wars and conflicts have First Nations peoples served in?
- Why did First Nations peoples choose to enlist in the military?
- Were Indigenous Australians always allowed to join the armed forces? Explain.
- Did Indigenous soldiers face different rules or restrictions when enlisting?
- Find examples of Indigenous Australian soldiers who made important contributions?

Life during wartime

- What roles did Indigenous Australians have in the military?
- Did Indigenous soldiers experience discrimination or unfair treatment? Give examples.
- What challenges might they have faced while serving overseas?
- How might serving in the military have affected their families and communities back home?

Life after the war

- What rights did Indigenous Australians have during World War I? For example, could they vote or were they included in the census?
- What happened when Indigenous soldiers returned home?
- What entitlements did they have when they returned from war?
- How might returning to Australia have been difficult for some Indigenous servicemen and servicewomen?

Recognition and remembrance

- How have the contributions of Indigenous servicemen and servicewomen been recognised?
- Why is it important to remember Indigenous Australians who have served in the military?
- Are there memorials, monuments or ceremonies that recognise their service?
- How can we make sure the stories of Indigenous servicemen and women are included in Australia's history?

Share Your Learning

Students choose one of the following activities to present what they have discovered through their research.

- Write a postcard from the perspective of an Indigenous Australian soldier to their family. Describe what life might have been like during wartime. Include drawings, photographs or maps.
- Create a design for a memorial that recognises the contributions of Indigenous Australian servicemen and servicewomen. Include a short explanation of the symbols, images or words you have chosen.
- Imagine you are creating an exhibition for a museum. Design a display that shares the stories of Indigenous Australians who served in the military. Include photographs, important objects, captions and interesting facts.

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Reflection

Students reflect on the following questions when they have completed their research:

- What was the most interesting or surprising thing you discovered?
- What challenges did Indigenous Australian soldiers face?
- Why do you think their stories have not always been widely recognised?
- How has your understanding of Australia's military history changed?
- Why is it important to learn about the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

Activity: Profile

Choose a First Nations person who served in the military. Create a profile that includes their background, military service, achievements and the challenges they faced.



Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Source: Australian War Memorial)



Leonard (Len) Waters (Source: Department of Veterans Affairs)



Captain Reginald Walter 'Reg' Saunders (Source: Australian War Memorial)

Case Studies – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anzacs (Source: Australian War Memorial)

Students will develop a biography of a First Nations person who served in the Australian military. Begin by discussing with students what a biography is. What information is included in a biography and what does it tell us about a person? Students can use the following questions to guide their research.

- When and where were they born?
- Who were their family members?
- When and why did they join the military? What was their role during their military service?
- What challenges did they face and how did they overcome them?
- What were their significant achievements?
- Why is it important to remember and recognise this person today?

Useful Websites

- Indigenous Service – Australian War Memorial
- Indigenous Veterans – BTN

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Teacher Resource

Portrait Artist

EPISODE 32
10 November 2026

KEY LEARNING
Students will explore and discuss different portraits; identify the techniques artists use and create their own portrait to represent someone special to them.

CURRICULUM
Visual Arts – Year 5 & 6
Explore ways that visual conventions, visual arts processes and materials are combined to communicate ideas, perspectives and/or meaning in visual arts across cultures, times, places and/or other contexts

Experiment with, document and reflect on ways to use a range of visual conventions, visual arts processes, and materials.

Use visual conventions, visual arts processes and materials to plan and create artworks that communicate ideas, perspectives and/or meaning.

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 TV show did Jazz recently win?
2. What famous Aussie did Jazz paint a portrait of?
3. Which gallery is Jazz's portrait hanging in?
4. What other art prize did Jazz win recently?
5. What advice does Jazz give about becoming an artist?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Portrait Artist story in pairs or small groups using the following questions to guide discussion. Record the main points of your discussion.

- What is a portrait?
- What is a self portrait
- Why do we create portraits?
- What can portraits tell us about a person?
- What makes a portrait interesting?
- What different techniques can be used to create portraits? Give examples.



- What skills do you think a portrait artist needs?
- Do you think a portrait needs to look exactly like the person? Why or why not?
- If you could paint a portrait of anyone in the world, who would you choose and why?
- What questions do you have about the BTN story?

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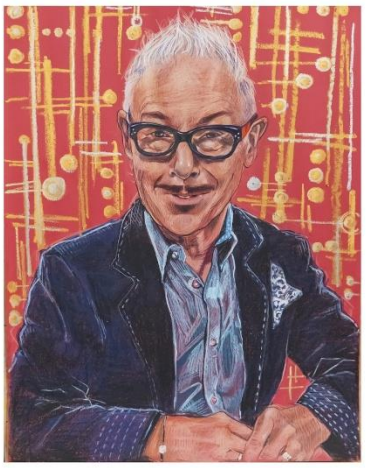
Activity: Jazz's Portraits

Students choose one of Jazz's portraits below and respond to the following:

- What do you notice first when you look at the portrait?
- What colours, lines or techniques has Jazz used?
- What do you think the portrait communicates about the subject?
- What questions would you ask Jazz about her artwork?
- How does the portrait make you feel? What do you like about it?



Casey Donovan



Kirk Pengilly



Justine Clarke

Activity: Exploring Famous Portraits

Portraits can tell us stories about people, their lives and the time in which they lived. Artists use different colours, techniques and styles to represent their subjects and communicate ideas. Students explore the selection of famous portraits below and respond to the artworks like an art critic.

Look closely

Choose three famous portraits to investigate. Observe each artwork carefully and consider the choices the artist has made.

Respond to the portraits

Students record their observations for each portrait.

- What do you notice first?
- What colours, shapes, lines or techniques has the artist used?
- What do you think the portrait tells us about the person?
- What mood or feeling does the artwork create?
- What questions would you like to ask the artist?
- What makes this portrait interesting or memorable?

Become an art critic

Students choose their favourite portrait and write a short review. Include:

- The title of the portrait and the artist's name.
- What you notice about the artwork.
- What you think the artist is communicating.
- Your opinion of the portrait, supported by reasons.

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René Magritte Son of Man



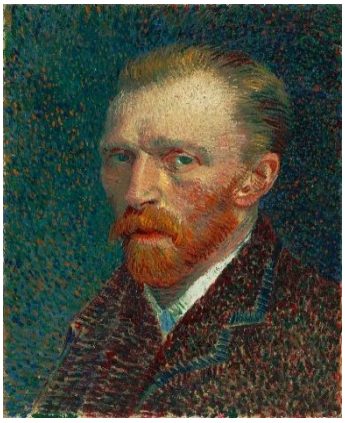
Johannes Vermeer, Girl with a Pearl Earring



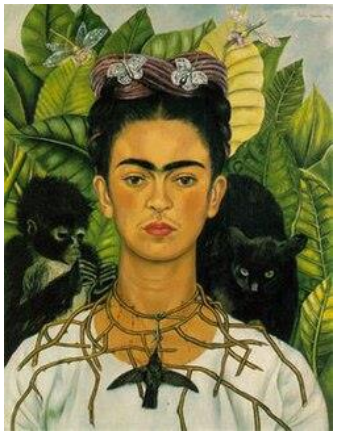
Andy Warhol, Shot Light Blue, Orange, Sage Blue, Red



Leonardo da Vinci, Mona Lisa



Vincent van Gogh, Self-portrait



Frida Kahlo, Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird

Activity: Create a portrait

Create a portrait.

Students will create a portrait of a person who is special to them, using the following as a guide.

- Choose someone who is special to you.
- Write 2-3 sentences explaining who the person is and why you chose them.
- What technique/s will you use to create your portrait? Think about colours to reflect mood or feelings.
- Organise a live sitting with your subject, where you and your subject are together, and you are working on their portrait. Complete your portrait using photographs of your subject as a reference. Give your portrait a title. Write an artist's statement about your portrait.

Reflection

- What did you notice about your subject that you had not noticed before?
- Which techniques did you use?
- What part of your portrait are you most proud of?
- What was challenging?
- If you could create the portrait again, what would you change?

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Activity: Virtual Excursion

The National Portrait Gallery offers a variety of 45-minute virtual excursions that can be delivered to your students in real time. All sessions are free! Find out more here.



Useful Websites

- Young Archie 2023 – BTN
- Centenarian Art – BTN
- Young Archie 2021 – BTN
- History of Portraits – BTN

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Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 32 – 10/11/2026

Yaama, I'm Jack and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. We speak to a young US journo about the midterm bluenami, take a road trip around Australia's big things and meet our Young Portrait Artist of the Year.

David Jones Future

Reporter: Samoda Silva

INTRO: But first today, one of Australia's oldest and most famous shops is facing an uncertain future. Last week David Jones went into voluntary administration because it can't pay its bills. Samoda found out more about what's going on and why it's not the only retailer facing tough times.

SAMODA SILVA, REPORTER: Back in the day, department stores were the place to be.

BOY: When I grow up, I might work here.

At their peak in the booming years after the Second World War, Australia had dozens of different department stores. But the oldest, and perhaps most prestigious, has always been David Jones. The very first David Jones was opened up in this building, in 1838, by this guy. Take one guess of his name. Yep, that's it. His shop sold mostly fabrics. But David Jones' son had a bigger vision for a store, where shopping was an experience, and people could eat at grand dining halls while shopping for all sorts of things. David Jones became a household name, and a part of Aussie culture, famous for its Christmas displays, its customer service, and this catchy song.

ADVERTISEMENT: There's no other store like David Jones.

But now, this famous old store is in trouble. After years of failing to make a profit, David Jones is behind on its rent to Westfield shopping centres. It's now gone into voluntary administration, which means it'll be taken over by people whose job it is to go through the company's finances, to see if it can be rescued. While they'll keep the business going for now, staff have been warned that stores may have to close, and jobs may be lost. More than 6000 people work at David Jones stores, and those stores are a big part of many towns' shopping districts.

PERSON: My mum loves David Jones.
PERSON: Yeah, my mum does as well. She's going to be so upset.

It's not the first Aussie department store to go through this sort of thing. We've also recently seen the closure of quite a few other Aussie clothing stores. There are all sorts of reasons why a business might find themselves in trouble. But, in the past couple of years, retail has faced some pretty big challenges.

PERSON: Everything is so expensive. It's my rent, the grocery shopping, everything, so it has left me with very little money to spend on clothes or stuff I enjoy.

Yep, a lot of businesses say that the rising cost of living is impacting their sales. With people spending more on essential things like petrol and groceries, many have less spare cash to go shopping, and are more likely to choose cheaper options. Rising interest rates have also had an impact. Then there's online shopping.

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PERSON: I don't get the chance to go to the shops a lot. So, sometimes it's just easier.
PERSON: You don't have to interact with anyone, so it's very, very good.

While department stores do sell things online, they have competition from all around the world, including from online marketplaces, which don't have to employ as many staff, or pay as much rent to have physical stores. It's got some worried about the future of places like this, where people go to shop and hang out in real life. But others say shops offer lots of things the internet simply can't.

PERSON: Good customer servicing. They can give me advice rather than shopping online.

PERSON: I definitely need to be able to see the product in person. Also feel what the material is like as well, because what if it's scratchy, I don't want to be wearing that.

PERSON: Clicking a couple of buttons and ordering something it's not the same as being in store and really communicating with someone else, like a real person. In this day and age, I feel like that's very rare to find.

We don't know yet what the future holds for David Jones, but many are hoping this iconic shop will continue to be a part of shopping malls for a long time.

News Quiz

Which country just had an election featuring two Chrises vying for leadership? It was New Zealand. The country's current Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, went up against Labour leader and former Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins and the winner was, well...

CHRISTOPHER LUXON, NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER: I have to tell you right now, it is too close to call.

It was really close and neither of the two main parties won enough seats to govern on their own so now they'll have to negotiate to form a coalition.

CHRIS HIPKINS, FORMER NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER: New Zealand has spoken. It may take us a little bit longer to figure out exactly what it is that you've said.

More than a billion people around the world have celebrated Diwali, which is the festival of what? Colour, light or stars? It's the festival of light. Diwali represents new beginnings and the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and wisdom over ignorance.

Which one of these songs made it into Australia's new national songbook? Is it this one:
SONG: Yes, I'm back in black.

This one:
SONG: Give me a home among the gum trees, With lots of plum trees

Or this?
SONG: Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong, under the shade of a coolabah tree.

It's Waltzing Matilda. The classic is one of 10 tracks added to the brand-new list, which celebrates songs for their artistic and cultural significance.

Midterm Elections

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Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: Now to that big blue wave I told you about earlier over in the US. Blue is the colour of the democrats which won way more seats than expected in the midterm elections. To find out what that means and why it matters, Wren caught up with a teenage journalist from the States who's been covering the whole thing. Check it out.

WREN GILLETT, BTN REPORTER: Jaden, it's been a massive week over where you are.

JADEN JEFFERSON, YOUNG JOURNALIST: 100%. I mean, a lot of things happened this week that I don't think anyone in either party in the US expected.

NEWS REPORTER: This is a major flip for Democrats.

NEWS REPORTER: We have another state flipping from red to...

TED CRUZ, US SENATOR: 2026 was not simply a blue wave. It was a blue tsunami.

JADEN: And it's certainly caused a political earthquake, you could say, at least.

JADEN: What are some of the other issues that you would like to...

For a bit of context, Jaden here is very invested in politics and has been interviewing politicians since he was 11 years old.

JADEN: I'm here with mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

JADEN: What are you doing for equal opportunities for people of colour.

ELIZABETH WARREN: So, that's a really good question.

OPRAH WINFREY: Jaden! Nice to meet you.

JADEN: Nice to meet you.

Wait! Is that Oprah? Anyway, back to politics.

WREN: I guess for people in Australia, we don't have midterms. Can you sort of run us through what those are?

JADEN: Sure. So, it's fairly simple. Every four years in the US, we obviously elect a new president, but every two years we elect members of our House of Representatives and in some cases our US Senate. And obviously these are the legislative houses that write legislation and write bills that the president ends up signing. If a president is not meeting all of their promises, they will certainly punish the president's party. And that's what we saw this week.

NEWS REPORTER: The American electorate has reacted and reacted strongly to Donald Trump's Presidency.

JADEN: States that traditionally the president had a lot of support in shifted. That support withered down to some Democrats even winning in the southern US, which is not something that tends to happen. Results that weren't in theory supposed to be, ended up being.

NEWS REPORTER: A Democrat has not won a Senate seat in Kansas, since 1932. That's 94 years ago.

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NEWS REPORTER: Democrat Annie Andrews has been elected to the United States senate from the state of South Carolina

NEWS REPORTER: It does appear that we will also have a democratic Senator from Texas as well as we get a race call in.

JADEN: These weren't close races; these were double digit victories for Democrats in Texas.

JAMES TALARICO, TEXAS SENATOR-ELECT: We went up against more than $300 million, more than any Senate campaign in American history.

WREN: Why do you think less people voted Republican?

JADEN: You know, there are a few things. I think one of the big ones is that a lot of the voters that voted in 2024, a great share of them were independent voters in the first place. And so they really, in the first place, weren't closely linked to the President. They maybe didn't think highly of him. So, the president not being able to change the situation and turn things around, but instead to make things more expensive, start a war in the Middle East, that doesn't go over well with these independent voters who had very specific goals in mind for the president, lower the cost of living and just make things more affordable and just kind of help us out. And that has not really happened. And so, voters reacted strongly to it.

PERSON: With prices going up and the war and things just building on everybody, they finally decided that 'you know what? Maybe we'll give a chance to the Democratic Party, and we'll switch our views for a moment.

PERSON: I think it's a message to the administration that people are tired of that style of leadership.

WREN: So, I guess what does all of this mean? What happens now?

JADEN: Yeah, that's the big question, right? I think everyone's kind of wondering what are Democrats now going to do, having this kind of power in Congress. In the first two years of President Trump's second term, Congress has essentially played a passive role in everything because it's Republican-controlled and the Republican Party would like to see their Republican president get things done as fast as possible. And so, they've allowed him to sign executive orders, haven't really challenged him on many things, particularly the war in Iran as well as his tariffs. And so you're probably going to see Congress be a lot more assertive and assert its responsibilities as an equal branch of government. And that wasn't something that was happening before these midterms.

WREN: And I guess I want to ask you as someone who's very invested in politics, why do you think everyone should care about politics?

JADEN: Yeah, it's really good to be engaged. If what's happening in your government, you can actually hold people accountable in your government.

JADEN, NEWS REPORT: Do you believe that you can raise the minimum wage with this new role?

JADEN: As a reporter, I'm constantly looking at what elected officials are doing once they become elected. And that's important because you want people in your chamber or in your government representing your interests and you want to know what they're actually prioritising. You'll be surprised by just the amount of legislation that actually affects people our age because it can be significant.

JADEN, NEWS REPORT: Reporting in DC, I'm Jaden Jefferson

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First Nations Veterans

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: November 11 is Remembrance Day which marks the end of the First World War. It's also a time to remember all of the Australians who have served in wars and that includes thousands of First Nations people. Let's find out more about the service of Indigenous veterans and why their sacrifice wasn't always recognised.

JACK EVANS, REPORTER: Around the country there are memorials remembering those who have fought and died serving our country at war. Names of those who never made it home, statues depicting war heroes of all kinds. There are also many monuments that pay tribute to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have served during war. But Indigenous veterans haven't always been remembered this way.

Australia's First Nations people have fought in every war Australia has been involved in, but they haven't always been welcome recruits. In fact, in the first and second world wars they were often barred from enlisting. But still, thousands managed to find their way onto the front lines. Some served in the air force like Leonard Waters, a Gamilaroi man and a fighter pilot who was sent to Indonesia during the second world war where he completed 95 missions in his Kittyhawk, black magic. Others fought on the ground like Reginald Saunders, a Gunditjmara man whose efforts in Europe saw him become the first Aboriginal Australian to be commissioned as an officer. There were also plenty of First Nations people helping on the home front like poet and activist Oodgeroo Noonuccal, who enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service in 1942 where she helped with communications. First Nations people also played an important role in defending Australia when Darwin was attacked in the second world war. And a special unit of mostly Yolngu people, used their tracking skills to help patrol Australia's northern coastlines.

While in uniform First Nations people were, in most cases, paid the same wage and treated with more respect and equality than they experienced in everyday life. But when they returned home, it was often a different story. They weren't given the same pension or financial benefits and the majority were refused service at Returned and Services League clubs or RSLs.

LT COL JOSEPH WEST, AUSTRALIAN ARMY: There was a time when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans weren't recognised you know they were excluded from the record books.

It wasn't until 1949 that the Government lifted all restrictions on First Nations people being able to join the military. Over time attitudes changed and Australia did more to recognise the service of First Nations people.

BOB HAWKE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER: After almost half a century now, the government derives great pleasure, I can assure you, from being able to recognise, with just and deserved recompense, the significant contribution that was made by these members of our community.

Today there are plenty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people proudly serving in our defence forces and for them and all Australians, Remembrance Day is a time to commemorate those who haven't always been remembered.

Quiz

What's the name of the red and black flower that's sometimes used to represent the service of First Nations people in conflicts? It's the Sturt's Desert Pea. In some First Nations stories the flower represents bloodshed during ancient conflicts and land struggles and it's often worn and laid at remembrance services.

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Big Things

Reporter: Saskia Mortarotti

INTRO: Now to Mildura in South Australia which recently became the home of Australia's newest big thing. It's a sultana and it made Sas want to jump in a car and explore the history of Australia's iconic big landmarks. Check it out.

ROADTRIPPER 1: Are we there yet?

ROADTRIPPER 2: Are we there yet?

ROADTRIPPER 3: Are we there yet?

ROADTRIPPERS: Whoa. BIG THING.

SASKIA MORTAROTTI, REPORTER: Yeah, Big Things in Australia are kind of a big thing. There's the big magpie in Canberra, the Big Bench in Broken Hill, The Big Boxing Crocodile in Humpty Doo, The Big Ned Kelly, The Big Lobster, The Big Tasmanian Devil, The Big Elf, The Big Potato. Basically, you name it, and there's a possibility it's somewhere in Australia and it's big. In fact, depending on how you define a Big Thing, there are either more than 100 or more than a thousand scattered across the country, in towns and along highways. Including the newest big thing In Mildura.

PERSON: The big 'tana.

KID: It's big, cool, weird, it has a funny smile.

KID: I was surprised that we have a big thing in Mildura.

The sculpture is 525 times the size of an average sultana and took 13 weeks to build. It's a nod to Australia's dried fruit industry, and locals are hoping it gets more people interested in the area's agricultural history.

IVAN SHAW, RETIRED DRIED FRUIT GROWER: It's really good to see it recognised here today because it's often an unsung hero.

Big things are nothing new. Big sculptures of people, animals, or objects have appeared all throughout history, all around the world and have been made for all different reasons. But the big things we're talking about have their origin in 1920s America. Cars were taking off, which meant more road trips, and big things were seen as a way of encouraging people to stop in towns, at cafes, hotels, and service stations. But it wasn't until the 60s that Big Things started popping up here in Australia. In fact, some people reckon this guy, Adelaide's very own Big Scotsman, was our first big thing. Although others claim the title for Gosford's Ploddy the dinosaur, which was built the same year.

NEWS REPORTER: A landmark on the Pacific Highway just north of Sydney.

Coffs Harbour's Big Banana popped up in 1964 and even got a visit from the Queen in the 70s. All of these Big Things were designed to bring in tourists, put small towns on the map, and showcase something that's a big deal in the area.

JOHN EGGERT, CREATOR OF THE BIG BULL: It's working out as an advantage for the whole area.

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ATTILA AND LOUIS MOKANY, DEVELOPERS OF THE BIG MERINO: It's good for the school kids. It's good for the tourism, it's good for the nation.

But not all big things have passed the test of time. Some have been abandoned or bypassed by new roads; in fact, some are worried the big banana is under threat from a new highway.

PERSON: I'm not a big fan of the bypasses because I think they kill all the small towns

But as our wrinkly friend here proves, there's still a big place in Australian hearts for places with big things.

PERSON: It's huge, but look at his wee face as well, he's so happy.

PERSON: You travel around Australia, and you see the Big Banana or the Prawn or... You know, why not?

Quiz

What big thing did the King or Prince Charles as he was back then, visit with Princess Diana back in 1983? It was the Big Pineapple.

Sport

The Kangaroos have reached the Rugby League World Cup finals after a massive victory over Samoa. Reece Walsh got himself a hat-trick and player of the match...

COMMENTATOR: There's Reece Walsh!

...helping to seal the deal 44 to 12. Meanwhile our Jillaroos have qualified for a fifth consecutive World Cup final after overcoming an early scare...

COMMENTATOR: And there stepping her way through Abbi Church.

...they were able to defeat Fiji 30 to 14.

The Melbourne Demons have booked their spot in the AFLW preliminary finals while the Geelong Cats came out with a bang...

COMMENTATOR: It's all about the bounce! It'll get there!

The Dees booted the last five goals of the game to steal a thrilling 56 to 52 win. Also making it through to the prelims North Melbourne's Kangaroos were dominant against the Carlton Blues...

COMMENTATOR: Spears it round on the left...

...and snagged the win 49 to 13.

Finally, to one last massive win, this time for the Adelaide 36ers, specifically 16-year-old Raheim Brown Junior. It was the teen's debut, and he hit a fairytale three-pointer in the last moments.

COMMENTATOR: Oh! 16-year-old teen sensation! It was just one of those moments he's going to remember for the rest of his life, that his first game, 10,000 fans and then he hits a three on the buzzer.

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Portrait Artist

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: Finally, today we're going to meet a teenager who was recently named Australia's Portrait Artist of the Year. Jazz is in year 12 and won an ABC TV program which asked artists to paint celebrities while the cameras rolled. Amelia spoke to her about what it was like and why she loves painting people.

JASMINE LANCASTER-MERTON, ARTIST: My name is Jasmine Lancaster-Merton. I am 18 years old now and I'm in Year 12.

AMELIA MOSELEY, REPORTER: So, Jazz, tell me, what was it like being on ABC's Portrait Artist of the Year, a reality show all about portraiture?

JASMINE: It was an absolutely unreal experience. Being in a big room with the audience members and the judges and the cameras, I've never personally had another experience where I've even had to make art in front of that many people before.

AMELIA: You won the entire show. I mean, how did that feel, Jazz?

JASMINE: It sort of still hasn't really sunk in yet.

PERSON: Jasmine.

JASMINE: Oh, my God.

JASMINE: Yeah, it's kind of a really, really big thing. And I went into the show having zero expectation that I would even get past the first round, you know?

PERSON: That's beautiful. Thank you.

AMELIA: Your prize was being able to paint a portrait of a famous Aussie and you've got Justine Clarke.

PLAY SCHOOL PRESENTERS: I'm Alex. And I'm Justine. Hello.

AMELIA: Now that portrait is hanging in the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. How does that feel then?

JASMINE: That's even less real. Just since I've been really, really young, you know, you write down, I'm like, when I grow up, I want to be, and I've just been like, an artist, you know. And so, to have that, something that I've made and painted and put so much time and effort into be in a gallery like that, like, that's such an unreal experience.

AMELIA: Jazz, let's go back to the start. How did you get into art?

JASMINE: I know that when I was really, really little, my parents sort of just always wanted me to be in like, I guess a creative mind space or like to have the opportunity to express myself if I needed to. But I think it's just always kind of been something that I was, I guess really interested in and that's just sort of always stayed with me. Yeah.

AMELIA: It's not the first time you have won something very major. You also won the Young Archie Awards last year, right?

JASMINE: That was also just such an amazing experience.

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JASMINE ON 7PM: Very overwhelmed, I gasped and I looked around and I made sure that it was real before I started walking.

JASMINE: I mean, I really, really encourage anyone who wants to or has any sort of, like, I guess, hopes that they could do something with art to enter in the Young Archies.

AMELIA: Jazz, what do you love about portraits in particular?

JASMINE: I think it's a really, really beautiful thing to be able to show someone how you see them. Because I feel like a photograph can only really do so much. And also, just people are so interesting, you know, like I feel like faces move in so many different ways and like showing people how you're seeing them is like a really interesting, wonderful thing to me.

JASMINE: Do you like her?

JUSTINE CLARKE: I love it. Thank you so much.

AMELIA: What would your advice be to any other teenagers or kids who are watching this who might want to do what you're doing? Becoming an artist and, you know, kind of living that dream, I guess.

JASMINE: I think practice, you know, make as much as you physically can. Like if you're sort of imagining yourself being an artist and you imagine yourself painting, pick up some paint, you know, and start painting.

Closer

Well, that's all we have for today, but we'll be back with more next week. And in the meantime, as always, you can catch up with the news every weeknight with Newsbreak. Have an awesome week and I'll see you next time. Bye.

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