



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.

ICE Protests

1. In pairs, or small groups, discuss the story. What were the main points of discussion?
2. What does ICE stand for?
3. How do the young journalists in the BTN story feel about ICE operations?
4. What questions do you have about this story?
5. How did this story make you feel?

Iran Violence

1. Where is Iran? Find on a map and list Iran's neighbouring countries.
2. Why are people protesting in Iran?
3. What has happened to the internet in Iran?
4. Religious leaders in Iran have a big role in running the country. True or false?
5. What questions do you have about this story?

Coalition Drama

1. What two political parties make up the Coalition?
2. What are the advantages of teaming up to form a coalition?
3. The Coalition have never split before now. True or false?
4. What law did the parties in the Coalition recently have a disagreement about?
5. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story?

Check out the [teacher](#) resource on the Archives page.

Social Media

1. When did the social media ban start?
2. What age does the social media ban apply to?

EPISODE 1

3rd February 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.

3. What challenges have children faced since the ban started? Give one example.
4. What are some positives that children have experienced since the ban started? Give one example.
5. What do you think about the social media ban?

Television History

1. What year was the first mechanical television system invented?
2. Who invented the mechanical television system?
3. What year was the first television broadcast in Australia?
4. Behind the News started in...
 - a. 1968
 - b. 1978
 - c. 1988
5. What was a major event in television history? Give one example.

Check out the [teacher](#) resource on the Archives page.



Teacher Resource

Coalition Drama

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 two political parties make up the Coalition?
2. What are the advantages of teaming up to form a coalition?
3. The Coalition have never split before now. True or false?
4. What law did the parties in the Coalition recently have a disagreement about?
5. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story?

Activity: Discuss

After watching the BTN Coalition Drama story students discuss the story in pairs. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Below are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What is a coalition government? Come up with a definition.
- When was the first coalition government formed in Australia?
- The Coalition is made up of which two political parties?
- Who are the leaders of the parties that make up the Coalition?
- Why do political parties join to make a coalition?
- Why did the Coalition split? Give one reason.



Activity: Ask a Question

Do you have a question about coalition of parties in government that you would like to ask as a class? Send it into the PEO's [Your questions on notice](#)

Below is an example from the PEO's Your Questions on Notice.

"What would happen if the coalition of parties in government decided to break their coalition? – [Response](#)

What questions do you have?

EPISODE 1
3 February 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the history of Australia's coalition government.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 5

The key features of the electoral process in Australia.

Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines.

HASS – Year 6

The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy.

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

Civics and Citizenship – Year 7

Reflect on their role as a citizen in Australia's democracy.

Activity: Key Words

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Coalition Drama story. Here are some words to get them started.

POLITICAL PARTY	COALITION OF PARTIES	GOVERNMENT
OPPOSITION	MAJOR PARTIES	MINOR PARTIES

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

Further activities for students:

- Become an etymologist and study the origin and history of the word *coalition*. Where does the word *coalition* come from?
- Visit the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) for a [glossary](#) to browse or search the meanings of key parliamentary terms.
- Watch BTN's [Election Lingo](#) video to learn more about political parties.



BTN [Election Lingo](#) video

Activity: Parliamentary Education Resources

Researching political parties

Students will create a list of the current political parties in the Senate and House of Representatives. Refer to the [PEO's lesson plan](#) including discussion questions to guide this activity.



PARLIAMENTARY
EDUCATION
OFFICE

Create political parties

Students will investigate how the party system operates in Australia by creating their own political parties. Download the PEO [resource](#) for step-by-step instructions, worksheets and further resources.

Quiz – the role of political parties

Test your students' knowledge of political parties in the Australian Parliament with this fun quiz. It includes key parliamentary terms such as 'hung parliament' and 'crossing the floor'.

[Link to PEO Quiz](#)

Useful Websites

- [Coalition Split](#) – BTN
- [Why do the Nationals and Liberals work together while the other parties \(Labor, Greens, etc\) are by themselves?](#) – Parliamentary Education Office
- [Coalition governments: what are they and how do they work?](#) – Museum of Australian Democracy



Teacher Resource

History of TV

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 year was the first mechanical television system invented?
2. Who invented the mechanical television system?
3. What year was the first television broadcast in Australia?
4. Behind the News started in...
 - a. 1968
 - b. 1978
 - c. 1988
5. What was a major event in television history? Give one example.

Activity: What do you see and learn?

After watching the BTN History of TV story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN History of TV story as a class. Ask students what they know about TV. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What do you know about the history of television? Make a list.
- Do you watch television? If so, why do you watch it?
- What's your favourite TV show? Why do you like it?
- Have your TV viewing habits changed over time?
- What impact has television had on society?
- What do you think the future of TV is? Give reasons for your answer.
- Working in pairs, come up with 5 fun facts about TV.

Further investigation

What is the most viewed television program of all time – in Australia and the world?

EPISODE 1
3rd February 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the history of television and investigate how it has impacted society and culture.

CURRICULUM

Media Arts – Years 5 & 6

Plan, produce and present media artworks for specific audiences and purposes using responsible media practice.

Explain how the elements of media arts and story principles communicate meaning by comparing media artworks from different social, cultural and historical contexts, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media artworks.

Media Arts – Years 7 & 8

Plan, structure and design media artworks that engage audiences.

Identify specific features and purposes of media artworks from contemporary and past times to explore viewpoints and enrich their media arts making, starting with Australian media artworks including of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media artworks.

Activity: Television History Research

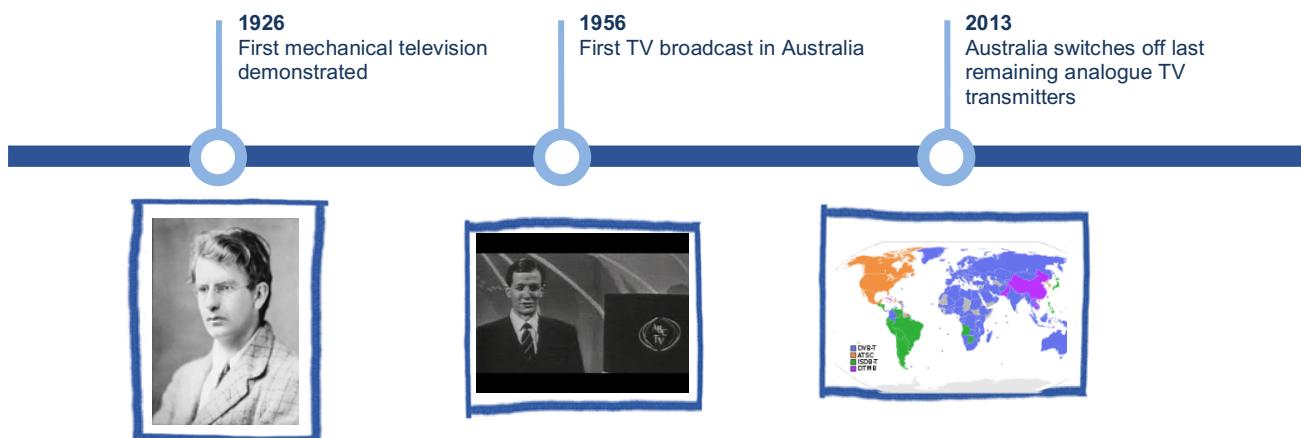
Discuss the information raised in the BTN History of TV story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below

Research

- Who invented the television? Write a biography about the inventor.
- What significant world events have been broadcast on TV? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- How did television change the way people got news and information?
- How is the internet changing the way we watch TV?
- What impact has TV had on Australian society? Think about how we engage with global events and culture.
- Make a prediction about how our television viewing habits will change in the future.

Activity: Timeline of main events

Students will create a timeline to sequence the history of television including the introduction of television in Australia and the switch from analogue to digital TV transmitters.



Students will work in small groups and work through the following questions to build on their understanding of the history of the television (including the invention of the television, when the television was introduced to Australia, how television has changed the world and how technology has changed the television). Students will find and collect images, photographs, illustrations and video as part of their research.

- When was the mechanical television first demonstrated? What image was shown?
- When was television introduced to Australia?
- When was the ABC's first television broadcast?
- What was the first Australian TV show?
- When was colour television invented?
- When did digital television start?

Useful Websites

- [World TV Day](#) – BTN
- [Invention: Early Experiments](#) – BBC

BTN Transcript: Episode 1- 3/2/2026

Hey, Amelia Moseley here and you're watching BTN. Aw I've missed you – I hope you had the best holidays. It is so great to be back with you for another big year of news. So, let's get into it. Today we'll find out about the drama going on in Australia's opposition, hear how the social media ban has been affecting some Aussie teenagers and say happy 100th birthday to the television.

ICE Protests

Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: But first up today to the United States where we're going to meet some student journalists from St Paul's, Minnesota. For weeks their home state has been at the centre of the news in the US and around the world, following two deadly shootings by immigration officers. Here's Wren.

It was around minus ten degrees here in St Paul's, when these students walked out of school and onto the grounds of the Minnesota capitol building to protest.

STUDENT PROTESTOR: Now is the time to be loud. Now is the time to speak out for the silenced.

ELIZABETH: Seeing that many, what, like five, 600 students attending and just kind of showing strength in numbers was just really insanely moving for me.

AMANDA: We went as a kind of a trio to cover it journalistically.

Amanda, Sonia and Elizabeth write for their school news service, and they've been putting together articles about what's been going on in their hometown.

SONIA: I would say it feels like constant fear and paranoia. It's kind of everything. It's all anyone's talking about.

In January, more than 3,000 immigration agents were sent to Minneapolis, St Paul's.

FOX NEWS: We have the largest immigration operation ever taking place right now.

Most of them were members of ICE, which stands for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It's a US Government organisation that's been around since 2003. And its main job is to find people who are in the country without permission. When Donald Trump became president again, he promised to reduce the number of people coming into the US illegally, which had gone up under former President Joe Biden, and to use ICE to deport people who were already in the country.

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT: We're tracking down the illegal alien criminals and we're detaining them.

To do that, the Government gave ICE a lot more money, and it started employing a lot more people. ICE reduced the amount of time it took to train officers, from five months to two. They were also allowed to wear masks, and legally stop, question, and detain people based on anything that 'looks suspicious' to them.

ICE AGENT: Because of your accent.

PERSON: You have an accent too.

ELIZABETH: I'm paying attention most to like my classmates who have to carry their passports with them at all times. My classmates who like try to minimize how much they go out of their home, like because it's not safe.

ICE has clashed with protesters and people who have been videoing them, and now, two locals have been shot and killed.

PROTEST: Alex Petti, Alex Petti.

In each case, the Government said they were attacking Immigration officers.

GREGORY BOVINO, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: An individual wanted to do maximum damage and massacre law enforcement.

But videos have contradicted a lot of what officials have said.

TIM WALZ, GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA: Thank God we have video. Because according to DHS, these seven heroic guys took an onslaught of a battalion against them or something. It's nonsense, people. It is nonsense and it is lies.

The person in charge of this ICE operation has now been removed, and President Trump has spoken to Minnesota's Governor, and says he'll work to calm things down. But many locals want ICE agents to leave their city altogether.

PROTESTOR: Shut it down.

In the meantime, Sonia, Amanda and Elizabeth say many locals are doing what they can to stay safe and strong.

SONIA: There's a lot of donation drives going on. There's people who are dropping off food to people who are scared to leave their houses, and there's kind of like a common sadness that everyone is feeling, but I guess it's better to feel it with other people than by yourself.

News Quiz

The US President upset a lot of European leaders recently by saying his country should be in charge of this icy Arctic island, what's its name? Iceland, Greenland or Finland? It's Greenland. It's home to about 50,000 people, most of them indigenous, and it's a semi-independent territory of the Kingdom of Denmark. The US already has a military base there, but President Trump has said the region would be more secure if the US owned the whole island.

Aussies did their best to stay cool last week during a record-breaking heatwave which saw temperatures hover in the high 40s.

KID: I feel like my inside's melting.

Which of these towns actually got to 50 degrees? Was it Walpeup in Victoria, Dubbo in New South Wales or Port Augusta in South Australia? It was Port Augusta. It's the first time Australia's recorded 50 degrees in

four years. The hot weather also came with strong winds in some places, which helped to fan bushfires, including big ones in Victoria's Otway's.

Katherine Bennell-Pegg has been named as this year's Australian of the year. What is her profession? Is she a surgeon, a chemist or an astronaut? She's a trained astronaut, the first ever to qualify under an Australian flag.

Iran Violence

Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: Now we're going to find out more about what's been going on in Iran. Over the holidays there were huge anti-government protests there which ended in tragedy. Wren spoke to a young Australian Iranian about what happened and how Iranians are feeling right now.

RONIKA: I'm Ronika, I'm 13-years-old, and I moved to Australia from Iran when I was around six.

Ronika's connection to Iran is a big part of who she is. Not only has she spent close to half her life there, it's where a lot of her family lives.

RONIKA: All my aunties, my uncles, my cousins, my grandparents, and I haven't seen them ever since I moved.

And in the past few weeks, she and many others have been really worried, as scenes like these unfolded.

In December 2025, protests took place across multiple cities across Iran.

RONIKA: They're protesting because they want a better future, and they don't have freedom. They don't have basic rights. They just don't have anything at this point.

Thousands or possibly tens of thousands of people have been killed by authorities, but it's impossible to know for sure because the Government shutdown the internet.

RONIKA: You have no cell service, nothing. You can't get your story out. You can't communicate with your family overseas. Like, I don't know if half of my extended family is okay right now.

These protests started because of serious economic problems in Iran. But tensions between Iranian people and their government have been high for a long time now. In fact, we last spoke to Ronika in 2022, when big demonstrations were taking place in Iran, after the death of a young woman, named Mahsa Amini. She was arrested for not wearing her hijab properly, and many people, like Ronika, cut their hair in protest.

Iran is an Islamic Republic, meaning religious leaders have a big role in running the country. They influence the courts, the military, the media, and who can run in elections. There are rules about where women can travel, work and what they can wear, and people have less freedom to live their lives the way they want. Which is why Ronika's family decided to leave.

RONIKA: I wasn't allowed to walk to school because that's extremely dangerous, especially at my age. Who knows what could happen? I would have to, I couldn't show any skin, long sleeves, pants, A hijab, I had to wear that at school at such a young age, I didn't have any freedom as to what to wear.

It wasn't always that way. The King or Shah that ruled Iran until the '70s encouraged education and equal rights for men and women. But he also punished people who disagreed with him, banned religious dress

and with the help of the US and UK, helped to overthrow a popular Prime Minister, which eventually led to an uprising and a revolution.

Today there are some Iranians who support the country's leadership. But there are also many who want change.

RONIKA: I'm proud of every single person who's let out into the streets, risking their lives for change. They don't know if they can make it to the end of that day. They don't know if they can keep their life. But they try because they want justice. And I just find that so inspiring because how can someone be that brave? And the fact that it's most of my country, that's impressive.

US President Donald Trump encouraged protestors in Iran, saying he'd attack the country's leaders if they hurt protestors.

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT: If they start killing people like they have in the past, I think they're going to get hit very hard by the United States.

Iran's leaders cracked down on the protesters anyway. Now, the US has sent war ships and troops to the Middle East, and Iran and some neighbouring countries are getting ready for the possibility of an attack against Iran.

CROWD: No internet, no witness!

For many, it's a scary and uncertain time, but people, like Ronika, have hope that things can change in Iran for the better.

RONIKA: I'm hopeful for change, as is, I think, everyone in Iran. I just want them to have a normal life, and I want to be able to visit my family at least once more before I lose them.

Upsetting News

If you're worried about that story or anything else you've seen in the news, make sure to talk to someone about it. We've also put together some resources on our website on how to deal with upsetting news so check that out whenever you like.

Coalition Drama

Reporter: Justina Ward

INTRO: Now to a local political drama that's been keeping some of us on the edge of our seats. Justina can tell us more.

PRESENTER: Previously on the Coalition.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD, NATIONAL PARTY LEADER: This is a time apart for us to be better.

SUSSAN LEY, LIBERAL PARTY LEADER: It is disappointing that the National party has decided today to leave the Coalition.

WREN: Ooh what are we watching?

JUSTINA: The Coalition. It's so tense.

WREN: Oh really? What's it about?

JUSTINA: Urgh, alright, I'll catch you up.... so

REPORTER: The Liberal-National coalition, or the LNP, is a political partnership that goes back a loooooooooong time. When this guy created the Liberal party in 1945.

ROBERT MENZIES, FORMER AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER: I'm very sorry to make an appearance in this battered shape, but the fact is that I had a very unsuccessful argument with the Canberra footpath yesterday.

He decided to get together with what was known back then as the Country Party. They had a fair bit in common politically.

LIBERAL PARTY ADVERT: There's no excuse now for the shortages or the hardships we're putting up with today.

And by teaming up they had a better chance of getting enough votes to form government and that they did. Together they won that election and the next one, and the next one and a whole bunch others.

WREN: Aww.

JUSTINA: But they have had their ups and downs. They've broken up a few times over political differences.

JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN, FORMER QUEENSLAND PREMIER: They are no longer part of the Coalition.

Or after some big election losses which is exactly what happened last year.

PETER DUTTON, FORMER LIBERAL LEADER: Our Liberal family is hurting across the country tonight.

WREN: Yeah wow, this really is dramatic.

JUSTINA: Oh don't worry they got back together.

SUSSAN LEY: Today David and I have reached agreement formally to reform the Coalition... because our parties are at their best when they work together.

PRESENTER: But now the drama continues.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: It's just that we have got to a juncture that we have moved apart.

Yeah, spoiler alert. It's happened again.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: There's never a perfect time to break a coalition, to be candid, and I do it with a heavy heart.

This time over new hate speech laws that were made after the Bondi terror attack. The laws were designed to give the government more power to list and ban groups that were seen as spreading hate. But while the Liberals supported the laws, three Nationals shadow ministers voted against them saying they would have too big an impact on freedom of speech. The three ministers resigned, having gone against the rules of the coalition. Then the rest of the National senators resigned too.

BRIDGET MCKENZIE, NATIONALS SENATOR: We did the right thing by our party room, and by the people who have sent us here.

SUSAN MCDONALD, NATIONALS SENATOR: The National party had already made it clear that it was one in all in, if our resignations were taken up that the entire National Party, front bench would go.

The Nationals announced the news of the split on the National Day of Mourning for Bondi victims, which for some wasn't the right time.

PERSON: They could have picked another day or a different time to do their thing.

For others, reactions were mixed.

PERSON: The Nationals have done a good thing by splitting with Liberal Party

PERSON: I think it's a huge mistake, and I think both parties need a new leader.

WREN: So, what do you think's gonna happen now?

The Nationals says they won't rejoin the coalition unless the Liberal choose a new leader.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Our party room has made it very clear, we cannot be part of a shadow ministry under Susan Lee.

There's been a lot of speculation on if, when and how that might happen. Nationals' leader David Littleproud was also challenged on his leadership but kept his job which means for now...

DAVID LITTLEPROUD: Well, we'll sit by ourselves.

The two-party leaders were set to meet on Monday night, so who knows what's next in this ongoing political drama.

Social Media Update

Reporter: Justina Ward

INTRO: Now to something that a lot of you weren't doing over the break and that's looking at social media. It's been eight weeks now since Australia brought in its world-first ban for under 16s, so we thought we'd see how it's all going. Here's Justina.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: Across Australia, those under 16 are starting their day a little differently. Without social media.

TIKTOK: AHHH.

TIKTOK: I believe this is a phenomenally terrible idea.

JUSTINA: Yeah, when the ban rolled in on December 10 you guys had some feelings.

REPORTER: Some of you said goodbye. Some of you said woo-hoo. And some of you said huh?

TIKTOK: He is still on TikTok, this guy's like 10. Sooo...

JUSTINA: According to the government it's all going pretty well.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: We can announce that this is working, 4.7 million accounts gone. Suspended. Stopped.

JUSTINA: But how do you feel?

ALBY: To be honest, it hasn't really worked. Everyone's gotten around it. Like the, for example, facial ID scans, the technology isn't good enough.

TIKTOK: This is Alby. Yeah, I'm Alby. I've been building things ever since I was 9. First writing code at code camps. The building Roblox games. And even launching a soccer gear brand when I was 12.

He's 14-year-old entrepreneur from Wollongong, NSW and has used social media to help build apps so he was pretty worried about the ban.

ALBY: Even if you're making money from it or you're doing something positive with it, they're just banning everyone. No exceptions. But my friends that have like, they've all got around it. So, it hasn't worked on like a level of actually getting people off social media.

WREN: I'm Wren, I am 15 turning 16 really soon, and I live in Perth, WA.

While Wren doesn't have long to wait until she can jump back on social media she says the ban has been challenging.

WREN: It's made it a little bit harder to access communities and, keep contact with my friends.

She has chronic fatigue, ADHD and autism and her online communities are important to her. But she says taking a break from her phone has been good.

WREN: It's been really cool. I've had chances to reconnect with people that I wouldn't have before. Like, I've been sending letters to people now and I've been doing a lot more hobbies, like, focusing on a lot on art a lot more.

JUSTINA: But she's also noticed a lot of teens getting around the ban.

WREN: Kids have started turning to other platforms which are less well known and possibly a bit riskier they don't have as many safety features like implicated to them.

ILIA: You can't say it's a good thing, you can't say it's a bad thing. Like, you have to look from two different points of perspective, because from one, someone can post something, and it can really harm the other person, and then from the, like, from the other, it's good, because you get, like, more free time, you get to sleep, you actually get to rest.

14-year-old Ilia from Sydney decided to delete all his social media when the ban started.

ILIA: I'm maybe more relieved, because you're not really tied onto anything, and your friends or anything, you're just free and you don't have to be responding to everyone.

But having recently moved here from Ukraine he says it's been harder to connect with people back home.

ILIA: The government didn't really think about people that have family like me back in Ukraine or like other countries they're worried about and they can't really talk to them only through their parents.

Of course different Aussie kids have different feelings about the social media ban and the government says it'll take a while before we know what sort of an impact it's had.

JULIE INMAN GRANT, E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER: We're doing a major evaluation with about 11 global academics that will be looking at a range of things, are kids sleeping more, are they taking fewer anti-depressants, are they outdoors more, are they interacting socially.

In the meantime, we'll keep listening to you guys as you get used to these new rules and the way they impact our lives on and offline.

Sport

World number one Carlos Alcaraz has become the youngest man to win all four grand slams after taking home his first Australian Open title on Sunday. Alcaraz went up against 10-time champion Novak Djokovic who had his sights set on winning his 25th major title but the Spaniard had other ideas taking the final in four sets.

CARLOS ALCATRAZ, TENNIS PLAYER: I don't even know what to say, but it feels crazy to be honest.

Meanwhile Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina now has another grand slam under her belt after beating world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the women's singles. Rybakina triumphed to the top spot in three sets denying Sabalenka her third Australian Open title.

ELENA RYBAKINA, TENNIS PLAYER: It's an incredible achievement, super, super proud.

Arsenal has won the FIFA women's champions Cup defeating Brazil's Corinthians 3-2 in a rain-soaked final in London. Aussie star Caitlin Foord came off the bench to score the winning goal in extra time. Caitlin, along with her teammates Steph Catley and Kyra Cooney-Cross are the first Australian women to win the champion's cup.

History of TV

Reporter: Tatenda Chibika

INTRO: Finally, today, if you're watching this on a television don't forget to wish it a happy birthday, because last week marked 100 years since TV was first tested out in public. Tatenda found out more.

“Freeman gets to the front!”

“It's a famous victory!”

We are the champions...

“I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear...”

From the high points...

“That's one small step for man...”

..to the low points.

“Diana, Princess of Wales is dead.”

(SIRENS WAIL)

“We crashed! The other trade centre's down. It's down.”

TATENDA CHIBIKA, REPORTER: Television has been here through it all, and it all started 100 years ago with this.

On the 26th of January 1926 in a London laboratory a Scottish inventor named John Logie Baird demonstrated the world's first mechanical television system. It used this spinning disc to scan an object. First, he used a fairly creepy looking puppet called 'Stooky Bill' and then a real human. Photoelectric cells captured the reflected light, converting it into electrical signals which were then sent to a receiver or televiser that recreated the image. It wasn't much, but at the time it was pretty cool.

One year later an American inventor named Philo Farnsworth demonstrated a fully electric version...

PERSON: Simple image, the straight line being hazily reproduced.

...and television was born. In 1928, the world's first TV drama aired in the United States. And soon, TV stations began to pop up as more people explored its potential for instantly sharing events, information and entertainment.

JOHN LOGIE BAIRD, INVENTOR: Television has grown from a scientific novelty to a commercial service.

But it took Australia a little longer to catch up with the TV revolution.

BRUCE GYNGELL, TCN 9 PRESENTER: Good evening and welcome to television.

On September 16, 1956, This was the first thing the very few Australians lucky enough to own a television saw when TCN 9, now known as the Nine Network, aired the nation's first TV broadcast. And a few months later, we were introduced to ABC TV.

MICHAEL CHARLTON, ABC TV PRESENTER: This emblem that you've just seen is tonight a symbol of a historic occasion, the opening of the national television service, which of course is our television service.

And in 1968, we first saw a little program we now call BTN. Television changed the way we understood the world. All of a sudden, people in their lounge room could see places and people on the other side of the globe. It changed the way politicians related to the public and changed public opinion on major events. It also influenced the way we dressed, the way we talked and our attitudes towards things like race, religion, gender, sexual identity and class.

Although, it wasn't all positive. Some blamed television for putting people off of reading or spending time outside. Along with exposing people to inappropriate content, setting unrealistic beauty standards and, of course, lots and lots of ads. And now, with more people turning to streaming, some are wondering what the future will hold for Broadcast TV. In the meantime, let's all wish the television a happy 100th birthday.

Closer

Oh happy birthday TV and happy 2026 to all of you TV watchers. I hope you've enjoyed our first show back, I know I have. We'll have more for you next week, but in the meantime, you can catch Newsbreak every weeknight and if you're in high school check out BTN High. Have a great week, and I'll see you really soon. Bye.