



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.

US Politics Interview

1. Who did Wren interview for the BTN story?
2. Which party does Donald Trump represent?
 - a. Democrats
 - b. Libertarian
 - c. Republican
3. Who has replaced Joe Biden as the Democrats new presidential nominee?
4. Voting in the United States is compulsory. True or false?
5. What did you learn watching the BTN story?

2024 Paris Olympic Games

1. Briefly summarise the BTN story. Compare your summary with a classmate's. What were the similarities and differences?
2. Where were the first Olympic Games held?
3. Which sport is being added to the Paris Olympic Games?
4. What have been some of the controversies with the Paris Olympics?
5. What is your favourite sport in the Olympic Games? Why?

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

Garden Weeds

1. What is a weed?
2. What impact can weeds have on native species?
3. When were weeds first introduced to Australia?
4. Why have invasive species been in the news recently? Explain what has happened in your own words.
5. Name three facts you learnt watching the BTN story.

Matthew Flinders

1. What did the Matthew Flinders story mainly explain?

EPISODE 19

23rd July 2024

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 to build literal and inferred meaning to expand content knowledge, integrating and linking ideas and analysing and evaluating texts.

English – Year 5

Use comprehension strategies to analyse information, integrating and linking ideas from a variety of print and digital sources.

English – Year 6

Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources including media and digital texts.

English – Year 7

Use comprehension strategies to interpret, analyse and synthesise ideas and information, critiquing ideas and issues from a variety of textual sources.

2. What is another name for a map maker?
 - a. Geologist
 - b. Cartographer
 - c. Botanist
3. What did Flinders achieve on his expedition?
4. Who was Bungaree and how did he help Matthew Flinders on his expedition?
5. Who gave Australia its name?

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

Lexie Running Free

1. What is Lexie's main event?
2. How does Lexie feel when she's running?
3. What is her favourite sport?
4. Describe Lexie's relationship with her mum. How has she helped her?
5. How did Lexie's story make you feel?



Teacher Resource

2024 Olympic Games

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. Briefly summarise the BTN story. Compare your summary with a classmate's. What were the similarities and differences?
2. Where were the first Olympic Games held?
3. Which sport is being added to the Paris Olympic Games?
4. What have been some of the controversies with the Paris Olympics?
5. What is your favourite sport in the Olympic Games? Why?

Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN 2024 Olympic Games story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was positive, negative or interesting?



Activity: Class discussion

Discuss the BTN 2024 Olympic Games story as a class. Ask students what they know about the Olympics. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What do you know about the Olympic Games? Make a list.
- Which new sport is being added to the 2024 Olympic Games?
- What controversies have there been with the 2024 Olympics?
- What words or symbols do you associate with the Olympic Games?
- Do you think the Olympic Games is an important event? Why or why not?



EPISODE 19
23rd July 2024

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the history of the Olympic Games. They will also research an athlete competing in Paris and learn more about the host country, France.

CURRICULUM

Health & PE – Year 5/6

Participate positively in groups and teams by contributing to group activities, encouraging others and negotiating roles and responsibilities.

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.

Activity: Olympic Games Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Olympic Games story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge?

What do I <u>know</u> ?	What do I <u>want</u> to know?	What have I <u>learnt</u> ?	<u>How</u> will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

- Why do we have the Olympic Games?
- Is it important that we have the Olympic Games? Give reasons.
- How have the Olympics changed from ancient to modern times? Explore in detail and present your findings on a timeline showing significant events.
- What can the Olympic Games tell us about Ancient Greece?
- Why are the Olympic Games held every 4 years?
- When were the Paralympic Games first held?
- What are the Olympic rings? Who created it? Think about the symbols and meanings of the rings. Think of a creative way to display your findings.
- How do new sports get added to the Olympic Games? Choose a new sport that will be added to the 2024 or 2028 Olympic Games and explain why it was added.
- What controversies have surrounded the Olympics over the years? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- How many countries have hosted the Olympics? Plot each country on a world map and incorporate into your timeline.
- Do the Olympic Games unite the world? Explain using your own words.

To learn more about the history of the Olympic Games and how they have changed over time, check out the videos below.



[BTN Olympic Games History](#)



[TEDEd video](#)

Activity: Olympic Sports

Students will create a report about their favourite Olympic Games sport. They can develop their own key questions to investigate or respond to one or more of the questions below.

- Why is it your favourite Olympic Games sport?
- Briefly summarise the sport.
- Research the history of the sport at the Olympic Games.
- What equipment is needed to play the sport?
- Who won gold in the sport at the last Olympic Games? Imagine you could interview the sports person. Write a list of questions to ask them.
- Write instructions explaining how to play the sport. Play the sport with your classmates using your instructions.

Activity: Australian Athlete Biography

Students will choose an Australian Olympic Games athlete and write a biography about them. Find out more about the Australian Olympic team [here](#). Ask students to think about the sort of information included in a biography. What does a biography tell us about a person? Students will find and record information about the person they have chosen.

Some possible areas of research include:

- Where and when was the person born?
- Describe their family life growing up.
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What are some of the challenges they have faced?

Once students have completed their research ask them to present their findings in an interesting way.

- Give a presentation on the individual's achievements.
- Design a poster.
- Make a "Did you know?" for other students.

Write a letter thanking them for their achievements and how it has changed Australia.

Activity: Host City Paris

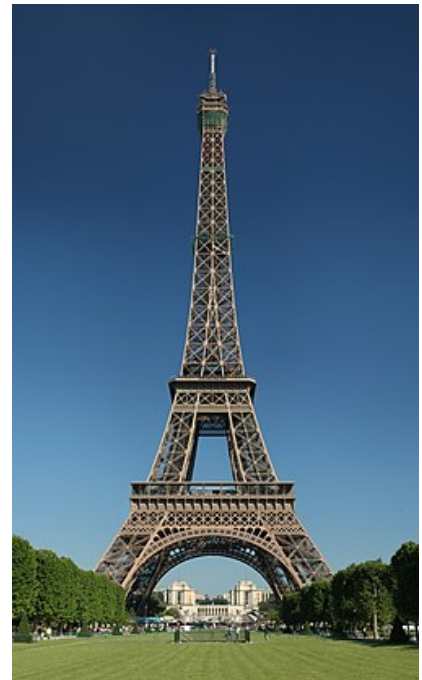
The 2024 Olympic Games are being held in Paris, France. Students will research and develop a profile of Paris and gain a deeper understanding of the city. Working in pairs, ask students to brainstorm what they know about Paris and record their responses. Using the 'who, what, why, when, where and how' framework, ask students to write questions that they would like to find the answers to. Students share their questions with the rest of the class. Discuss how students could find answers to the questions they generate.

Topics to include in a profile of Paris:

- Geography – physical features, climate, environment and population.
- People – culture, lifestyle, health, religion and beliefs.
- Economy – wealth and poverty, education, work and industries.
- France’s relationship with Australia – trade, migration, tourism, education and cultural influences.
- Facts about Paris.

Discuss with students how they are going to present their profile of Paris. Possibilities include:

- Create a poster.
- [Create a postcard](#) using Canva to share some of the things you have learnt about Paris.
- A short oral presentation



Further Investigation

Compare Paris to the capital city where you live (or the closest to you).

Activity – Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Symbols of the Olympics

What are the symbols of the Olympic Games? Brainstorm a list. Choose 2 or 3 symbols to illustrate and describe what the symbols represent.

2024 Olympic Mascots

[Meet 'The Phryges'](#) – the mascots of Paris 2024. Write an explanation of what they are based on, the history and what they symbolise.

School Olympic Games

Plan and host your own class mini-Olympic Games. Plan a schedule of activities. Each student can represent a different country. Hold an opening ceremony and then let the games begin!

Did you know?

Using the information in the BTN story and your own research, create a *Did You Know* fact sheet about the Olympic Games. Publish using [Canva](#).

Useful Websites

- [Olympic Games History](#) – BTN
- [New Olympic Sports](#) – BTN
- [Australian Olympic Team Paris 2024](#)
- [History and Origin of the Games](#) – International Olympic Committee



Teacher Resource

Matthew Flinders

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 did the Matthew Flinders story mainly explain?
2. What is another name for a map maker?
 - a. Geologist
 - b. Cartographer
 - c. Botanist
3. What did Flinders achieve on his expedition?
4. Who was Bungaree and how did he help Matthew Flinders on his expedition?
5. Who gave Australia its name?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document contains images and names of deceased persons. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN story engage students in a class discussion to explore what they learnt about Matthew Flinders.

- What did Matthew Flinders achieve on his expedition around Australia?
- How did Bungaree help Matthew Flinders on his expedition around Australia?
- What are some places that are named after Matthew Flinders? Make a list.
- These are five words that I would use to describe Matthew Flinders...



EPISODE 19

23rd July 2024

KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate Matthews Flinders' circumnavigation of Australia.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 4

The journey(s) of AT LEAST ONE world navigator, explorer or trader up to the late eighteenth century, including their contacts with other societies and any impacts.

The nature of contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and others, for example, the Macassans and the Europeans, and the effects of these interactions on, for example, people and environments.

HASS – Year 5 & 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.

HASS – Year 7

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

Apply a methodology to locate and collect relevant information and data from a range of primary sources and secondary sources.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Matthew Flinders story. Below are some words to get students started.

CIRCUMNAVIGATE	COLONISATION	EXPLORATION
CARTOGRAPHER	NAVIGATOR	EXPEDITION

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:

- Students will add to their glossary by downloading the transcript for the BTN Matthew Flinders story and highlight all the words that relate to the topic.
- What is the difference between a navigator and explorer?

Activity: Research Inquiry

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Matthew Flinders 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 a question below.

What do I <u>know</u> ?	What do I <u>want</u> to know?	What have I <u>learnt</u> ?	<u>How</u> will I find out?

- Investigate Matthew Flinders' voyages around Australia. Look at this [map](#) which shows Matthew Flinders' voyages around Australia. What ships and boats did he sail on?
- What were some of the challenges Flinders faced on his journey?
- Find as many places as you can that are named after Matthew Flinders and mark on a map of Australia.
- Why did Matthew Flinders take Aboriginal guides on his journey?
- What is the legacy of Matthew Flinders? What event and/or action led to them becoming a significant person in Australia's History? Write 1-2 paragraphs.
- How might Matthew Flinders' journey be similar or different to journeys undertaken today?

Activity: Timeline Poster

Students will research the life and achievements of explorer Matthew Flinders and create a timeline poster and prepare an oral presentation summarising key events in Flinders' life and his contributions to exploration. Alternatively, students can choose a different explorer to investigate, for example, James Cook, Burke and Wills, Nancy Bird Walton, Douglas Mawson or Joseph Banks.

Timeline Poster

Your students' task is to create a timeline poster, responding to the following areas of research.

Research

- Early Life - Information about your significant person's parents. When/where was your significant person born? What type of education did your significant person receive?
- Family - Personal information; Was your significant person married? Did they have children?
- Legacy - What event and/or action led to them becoming a significant person in Australia's History? What did they do that had an impact on the lives of others?
- 'Where are they now?' If your significant person has died, you can outline where they are buried. If they are still alive you can outline what their life looks like now.
- 2 x 'Interesting Facts' and 2 x 'Did You Know?'
- A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 photos with captions.
- Include a bibliography on the back of your poster.

Oral Presentation

Students will prepare a short oral presentation, speaking in 'first person'. They will speak about their life, their family, character, the decisions they made and why, and their impact and influence on society. Students are encouraged to dress up in-character and bring along 3-4 'props'/artefacts to support their presentation.

Further Research

Students will choose one of the activities to further investigate their significant person.

Interview

- Imagine you could sit down and talk to Matthew Flinders.
- What questions would you ask about his life and achievements?
- Find answers to your questions.

Portrait

- Plan and create a portrait of Matthew Flinders.
- Explore and experiment with different techniques and mediums to produce a portrait.
- Organise a class exhibition of your artworks.

5 w's

- What are some of the key events in Matthew Flinders' life?
- Write a summary for one key event, which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Activity: Becoming an Explorer

Matthew Flinders was among the world's most accomplished navigators. However, you do not have to travel far or need large amounts of time to be an explorer of the world.

As a class brainstorm what it takes to be an explorer of the world. Here are some tips to get you started:

- always be looking
- collect and document your findings – take field notes
- use all of your senses when you are investigating
- be curious – everything is interesting if you look closer

Would you be a good explorer? Students find themselves in 1813 with the challenge of crossing the Blue Mountains. They must make good decisions to be successful, which will pave the way for the opening up of the colony of New South Wales. Students can [play this game](#) on the digital classroom.



[Australia's Defining Moments: Digital Classroom](#) (Source: National Museum Australia)

Activity: Analysing Maps

In this activity students will observe, analyse and query the map of Australia made by Matthew Flinders. Students can use Google to find a copy of the map or provide them with this link to Trove – [General Chart of Terra Australis or Australia](#).

During their investigation, students will respond to the following questions:

- Who created the map?
- What is the title of the map?
- When was the map produced and/or published?
- How do you think it was made?
- What features do you see on this map?
Make a list.
- What is the purpose of the map?
- What geographical questions do you have about the map?



[General Chart of Terra Australis or Australia](#) (Source: Trove)

Activity: Map Making

Provide students with the opportunity to think and behave like cartographers (someone who makes maps). In this activity students will be given the mission to map their classroom or school grounds, identify a range of geographical features and construct a map.

Students may work individually or in small groups and will use the following as a guide:

- What tools and materials will you need to construct your map?
- Decide what the purpose of your map will be and how it will be useful to people.
- What objects or geographical features will you include in your map?
- How will you figure out what scale to use?
- Consider including contour lines on your map to show the shape of things (like hills).
- Consider including a grid on your map which will help people locate specific places.
- Include a title, north arrow, symbols and scale on your map.

Students will reflect on the activity by responding to one or more of the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about the map making process?
- Compare and contrast your map with that of your classmates. What is similar or different?
- What did you find surprising?
- What would you do differently next time?

Useful Websites

- [Matthew Flinders: Celebrating the cartographer who circumnavigated Australia](#) – Australian Museum
- [Explorer Matthew Flinders reburied at birthplace in United Kingdom after remains were lost for more than 160 years](#) – ABC News
- [Mapping the Continent](#) – Australia's Defining Moments: Digital Classroom
- [The Voyage of Matthew Flinders](#) – History Trust SA
- [Matthew Flinders](#) – Australian Museum



Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 19- 23/7/2024

Hey, I'm Amelia Moseley and you're watching BTN. Welcome back for the first episode of term three. I hope you had the best holidays. Let's see what's coming up on today's show. We're going to get the lowdown on the Paris Olympics. Learn about the man who mapped Australia. And meet one of the winners of this year's Heywire competition. All that soon, but first today...

US Politics Interview

Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: To the US where a lot has happened in the world of politics, from an assassination attempt to the president dropping out of the election. To help break it all down Wren got in touch with Quinn Mitchell. You might remember, we've spoken to him before. He's 16 and he's been reporting on US Politics since he was 11. Take a look.

WREN GILLETT, BTN REPORTER: Hey Quinn, thanks so much for joining us again.

QUINN MITCHELL, YOUNG POLITICAL JOURNALIST: Oh, thank you so much for having me.

WREN: So, Quinn, it's been a big few weeks, can you sort of run us through what's, what's happened?

QUINN: Yeah, totally. So today, just a couple hours ago, President Biden dropped out of the race, which is huge.

NEWS PRESENTER: President Biden has announced he will stand down.

NEWS PRESENTER: He is dropping out, withdrawing from the US presidential election.

I was just playing a game with a friend just for relaxing because it's Sunday. And I just checked my phone, I got an Instagram notification from someone. And it just told me that Biden dropped out. I was like, what, because nobody expected that. So, I looked into it a lot. And you know, I was on Twitter for a while.

WREN: Yeah... how did we get here?

QUINN: How did we get here? I think Biden dropping out came from his horrible debate performance. It was probably like the worst performance you could give.

JOE BIDEN: We have to do with, uh... Look... If...

The thing about a really bad presidential debate performance, is it's really hard to counter because a majority of Americans are tuned in to that. That's where you get the widest audience and that's the impression he gave on American voters that night. And that's an impression that's very hard to counter.

NEWS PRESENTER: Concerns appeal to be growing about President Biden's age and mental acuity.

NEWS PRESENTER: Experts have already said that his age could be a campaign issue.

WREN: You said that Biden is going to be replaced? Do we know much about his replacement?

QUINN: Oh, yeah. It's almost certainly going to be vice president Kamala Harris. In 2020, you know, Biden picked her as Vice President, first woman in the Vice Presidency position, which was, you know, a great milestone for America.

KAMALA HARRIS: The most existential, consequential and important election of our lifetime.

She'll be nominated within a month or so.

WREN: And, of course, on the other side, Donald Trump, what's been going on there?

QUINN: Oh where do I start? There's so much going on. So obviously, on Saturday, July 13th, our Former President Trump was almost assassinated in Pennsylvania. One bullet hit his ear, and others went into the crowd. Two were critically injured and one other died. When Trump got shot, he got up and pumped his fist and yelled, fight, fight, fight. And I think I was on Twitter and CNN for the next five hours, probably. And a lot of America was too.

AMERICAN: They shot Trump. They shot Trump. He's down.

AMERICAN: This is one of the worst historical moments in America.

AMERICAN: I'm getting goose bumps right now when I think about this. Like, for real.

I think the last time something like this happened was when Reagan was shot. We've had a small number of presidents get shot and killed. I think JFK was the last president to be assassinated. And that was in the 60s. So, we haven't experienced anything like this for a long time. And for many generations, like myself, it's the first time seeing a president of the United States come within, it was really half an inch, of being killed. A lot of Republicans are calling this sort of a miracle of God right now.

DONALD TRUMP: I had God on my side. I felt that.

(CHEERING AND APPLAUSE)

WREN: In your opinion, why is this particular election so important?

QUINN: A lot's on the line. Both candidates have very, you know, different plans for the country. And just the messaging that has been thrown around this election is like no other.

JOE BIDEN: The defeated former president has made no secret of his attack on our democracy.

DONALD TRUMP: The election result - we're never going to let that happen again. They used COVID to cheat.

It's definitely scary. And it's definitely an interesting time to be a Gen Z'er in America.

WREN: What would your advice be to maybe other young Americans and just other young people more broadly?

QUINN: I would just say to make the effort to be involved. Make the effort to reach out to people too. Democracy depends on compromise. And that just means talking to your neighbor who you know might think differently than you on some crucial issues. Talk to everybody you can.

WREN: So have more conversations like these?

QUINN: I think it's so fundamentally important.

News Quiz

Do you know the name of the cyber security company whose software update caused the biggest tech outage in history last Friday? Is it Cybercrowd, CrowdStrike or Cyberdyne? It's CrowdStrike. The outage affected airlines and shops and, um, TV broadcasters.

NAT KELLY ON NEWSBREAK: It's blue. They're all blue with a very sad face in the corner.

Donald Trump has named Ohio Senator J.D. Vance as his running mate, which means if Trump's elected, Vance will be vice president. What else is the senator famous for? Is he a former baseball player, did he write a bestselling novel, or is he married to a famous singer? He wrote a best-selling novel, which was also turned into a movie.

MOVIE CHARACTER: Don't make us your excuse, JD.

It's called Hillbilly Elegy and it's about his life growing up in a poor rural community before going to Yale to study law.

J.D. VANCE: To the people of Middletown, Ohio, and all the forgotten communities, I promise you this - I will be a vice president who never forgets where he came from.

Do you know the name of this new world leader?

KEIR STARMER: Change only happens if you vote if you vote for it.

It's Keir Starmer, the new Prime Minister of the UK. He took over the job earlier this month after the UK's Labour Party won the election by a lot.

KEIR STARMER: Change begins now.

The King and Queen have announced they're coming to Australia in October. It's a trip that's been in the works for a while, but it was delayed after the King was diagnosed with cancer. Do you know when the couple was last in Australia? 2014, 2018 or 2020? It was in 2018, although, of course, back then it was Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla. The King has actually been to Australia 15 times as Prince and has visited every state and territory. He even spent two terms at Geelong Grammar School when he was 17.

2024 Olympic Games

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: Now to the Olympics which are about to begin with the opening ceremony in Paris on Friday. And while sadly, Jack isn't there, he has been brushing up on his Olympics knowledge to tell you all about the games.

Ah, the Olympic Games, the pinnacle of athletic achievement. Drawing athletes from across the globe to compete in a range of sports for medals, glory and, umm, more glory. But before they start, as the unofficial BTN Olympic Correspondent, I thought I'd give you a rundown of everything you might need to know, starting with..... Oh, what are they?

The Olympic Games started hundreds of thousands of years ago in ancient Greece. The exact date is unknown. Initially the Games saw Greek men compete in a sort of running race called a Stade, before more sports were added. The games were held every four years during a holiday celebrating the Greek god Zeus, and people would come from far and wide to watch and compete, up until 393 AD, when this guy became emperor and decided to get rid of them.

(SIGHS) And that was the end of the Olympic Games. Oh just kidding. Of course it wasn't! They're starting on the weekend.

Fast forward to 1894, and a French historian and teacher by the name of Pierre de Coubertin thought it would be a grand idea to bring the Games back as a way of “building a peaceful and better world by educating young people through sport”. So he founded the International Olympic committee or IOC. And in 1896 the first modern games were held in Athens Greece with athletes, male athletes, representing their country. Don't worry, four years later women were invited to compete as well.

The games have continued to be held every 4 years in a different city around the world and dozens of sports have been added to the list. Including break dancing will be part of this year's games for the first time. Oh, and speaking of which, this year's Games are being held in Paris or as the French say Paris. Ohh, la la. But you probably already know that and like me dusted off the beret back in 2017.

THOMAS BACH, IOC PRESIDENT: Paris - '24. Los Angeles - '28.

Ever since then Paris has been busy planning and spending billions of dollars building new sporting arenas, as well as accommodation for all the athletes and the international spectators. The plan is to make it the greenest games ever.

Oh and about \$2 billion has been spent trying to clean up the Seine River. Organisers want to use it for swimming events, as well as the first ever outdoor opening ceremony. But because of pollution, swimming in the river has been banned since 1923, so the government has been trying to clean it up. But a lot of people say it's still pretty dirty and have poo pooped the whole thing, literally. At one point people were threatening to protest by pooing in the river, which I don't think happened or at least I hope it didn't. And since then both the Paris Mayor and this French Minister have taken a dip to prove its safe to swim in. Oh, and while all this has been going on the President called a very early election, which didn't go the way he wanted and left the country in a bit of political chaos.

There have also been questions about whether some teams should be allowed to compete, given their role in current conflicts. But others say that the games are about coming together in spite of politics or even war. And there are plenty of people who are looking forward to watching the games with billions expected to tune in around the world. So, there you go, now you're all ready for the Olympics and perhaps I'm ready for a career change. Sports Reports with Jack. Yeah, it's got a good ring to it, doesn't it? Sports Reports. And in summer I could wear shorts. It'd be Sports Reports In Shorts. I love it.

QUIZ

Where will the next Olympic Games be held? In Brisbane, Barcelona or LA? The 2028 Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles, the first US Games since 2002.

Garden Weeds

Reporter: Kushi Venkatesh

INTRO: Recently there's been a bit of controversy over weeds. Some well-known nurseries have been selling plants that are actually invasive species. So, what does that mean? And how much damage can a plant really do? Kushi's on the case.

SERGEANT: We're looking at a real tough one.

DETECTIVE: Boss, I've located them all across Australia, in cities, on coastlines.

SERGEANT: Yeah, looks like this case isn't going to be a walk in the park.

DETECTIVE: Yes Yes, they're in parks too.

SERGEANT: Cancel your dinner plans detective, let's find these weeds.

KUSHI VENKATESH, REPORTER: Yeah, while they might look innocent, pretty even, invasive weeds can be a huge problem.

SERGEANT: A weed is any plant that grows where it doesn't belong. In a garden, that's annoying, but in the wild or on a farm, it can be catastrophic.

Weeds can rob native plants of water and nutrients they need to grow. They can increase fire risk and can act as a host for pests and diseases. Some of them are even poisonous for animals.

JACK GOUGH, INVASIVE SPECIES ADVOCACY DIRECTOR: We're very concerned often about the environmental impact about having beautiful native Australian landscapes and bushland and, and healthy streams that aren't taken over that aren't choked out by species which aren't meant to be there, which can really take over.

SERGEANT: So how did you get here?

Weeds have been a problem in Australia since colonisation. When people introduced a whole lot of new species. Sometimes on purpose and sometimes by accident. Some of those plant species liked their new environment a little too much and quickly took over. Now we're much more aware of how damaging weeds can be, or at least we should be.

DETECTIVE: I found the suspects.

SERGEANT: Aha Gazania, AKA the African Daisy, a flowering plant native to South Africa.

DETECTIVE: It says here that it's an invasive weed and it's causing some big problems out in the mallee country.

SERGEANT: How did you find it?

DETECTIVE: Well, I just bought it at the nursery.

Yeah recently, there's been some controversy over the fact that Gazania here, is being sold at some shops.

JACK GOUGH: Currently in some of our big nurseries, so at Bunnings or if you go to other large nursery chains, or just your local nursery, species which have been identified as highly invasive, as weedy, are still able to be sold.

Different states have different laws about what plants can be sold at nurseries, and while some species are controlled, Jack says too many aren't.

JACK GOUGH: Unfortunately, a lot of people's gardens are ticking time bombs, that means they'd have these plants in there that could end up being the weeds that land care or human care groups or local councils must go and deal with.

And it's not just gazanias.

JACK GOUGH: So, you might have heard of things like blackberry, or lantana, which if you go into bush land, you often see. People might have seen this one that's called pampas grass.

Another good example of something that people often don't think about is cactuses. So, we have a whole heap of cactuses that people love to keep, but they really can get into our environment and become very serious weeds.

KUSHI: It's why the invasive species council is calling for tougher and clearer rules about what can and can't be sold in nurseries and grown in gardens.

JACK GOUGH: It's not reasonable to expect every single Australian gardener when they go down to their local nursery, to know what is a good or a bad plant. That actually this is where governments need to step in. Governments making some clear rules about what can and can't be sold.

He says invasive weeds are a problem we need to take more seriously to protect our fragile ecosystems

SERGEANT: Well, I wish I could say case closed but I have a feeling we haven't seen the last of this one.

Matthew Flinders

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: Over the holidays there was a ceremony in the UK, where the remains of Matthew Flinders were reburied after being accidentally discovered a few years ago. Flinders is a name that's probably familiar to you. But in case you don't know exactly who he was, here's Jack to tell you all about him.

Whenever I think of Mathew Flinders I think of, the Flinders Ranges, Flinders St, Flinders St Station. But who exactly is Flinders? Surely, he's not a station? This is Mathew Flinders, or at least it's a portrait of Matthew Flinders, who I've been told was indeed a real-life person. Matthew Flinders was born on the 16th of March 1774 in a town called Donington in England. Which means he would have spoken like this. Sorry, I just really wanted to do a British accent. Sorry, Flinders.

Anyway, Matthew Flinders' dad was a doctor who hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps, but Matthew had other plans. Inspired by the adventure novel Robeson Crusoe, Flinders was drawn to a life at sea and at the age of 15 he joined the Royal Navy. He served on several expeditions, including a few that took him all the way to Terra Australis which Britain had just begun to colonise.

One of those journeys was on the HMS Reliance where Flinders was serving as a low ranked officer. He befriended the ships surgeon, George Bass and together they were granted permission to jump on a little boat called the Tom Thumb and explore the coast of NSW and eventually the section of water between Victoria and Tasmania. You know the Bass Strait, which I'm just realising is probably called the Bass strait after George Bass, that's history for ya.

By this point Flinders had proven himself a rather good cartographer or map maker. So, in 1801 the British Admiralty asked Flinders to return to Terra Australis to map the whole island or islands. You see back then the British weren't really sure if Australia was actually a continent or a series of islands. Because no one had been all the way around and that's exactly what flinders set out to do. Alongside his trusty companion, a black and white cat named Trim.

He had help from a Kuringgai man called Bungaree, who was able to communicate with the different Indigenous groups along the coast. As well as helping to navigate the land and sea, identifying landmarks and safe passageways. He was described by Flinders as a Worthy and Brave fellow who saved the expedition a few times. Once Flinders had finished his mapping, he set off for England but along the way he

was shipwrecked at the French controlled island of Mauritius. It was bad timing because Britain and France were at war and Flinders was put in prison for 6 years.

When Flinders was eventually released, he returned to England and worked on his book "A Voyage to Terra Australis" as well as detailed maps of the continent. Which was now commonly known as Australia thanks to Flinders. Yep, he was the one that suggested that Australia would make a good name and it stuck. I mean obviously it stuck it's the name of our country.

Flinders died on the 19th of July 1814, a day before his book was published. He was buried in London, but eventually the location of his grave was forgotten and ironically the great cartographer was lost. That was until 2019, when construction on a speed rail in London unearthed his remains along with a lead coffin breast plate confirming that it was Matthew Flinders. And just this month he was finally taken back to his hometown to be reburied. Meanwhile the lead breast plate has been sent to Adelaide where it will go on display, so we have another way to remember the guy who mapped our country and gave it its name.

Sport

COMMENTATOR: PIASTRI takes the lead of the race!

SAS: Things started off strong for Australia's very own Oscar Piastri at the Hungarian Grand Prix, but it wasn't all smooth sailing. His McLaren Team-mate Lando Norris scored pit-stop priority, even though he was in second place, under a promise to swap back before the end of the race. But Norris then nearly took the win for himself...

COMMENTATOR: Lando Norris goes past his team-mate.

...before remembering his promise and letting Piastri get past him to become the fifth Australian ever to win an F1 Grand Prix.

COMMENTATOR: Oscar Piastri wins!

Now over to someone who's no stranger to winning - Tadej Pogacar, who's just won his third Tour de France. Pogacar dominated the final stage to seal a historic Giro d'Italia/Tour de France double win.

Pogacar: It's hard to describe how I feel right now. It's all a bit crazy.

And finally, to Brisbane, where New South Wales has celebrated a historic win, after claiming game three in the State of Origin series. It's the first time the Blues have won the decider at Lang Park since 2005. The game was tight from the get go, and it took 39 minutes for the opening points to be scored. With only 16 minutes to go, the Maroons led 4 to 2, but two tries in three minutes saw New South Wales seal the series.

Lexie Running Free

Rookie Reporter: Lexie

INTRO: This term we're going to be showing you some of the winners of this year's Heywire competition, which asks young people living in regional and remote parts of Australia to share stories about their lives and things that are important to them. Today, we'll meet Lexie who's going to tell us why she loves to run.

I'm a fast runner. My main event is the 800 metres. My family call me the next Cathy Freeman because I'd win all the running races at athletics carnivals. I broken the local 100m, 800m and 1,500m records.

I feel free when I run. Running makes my anxiety go away. For a moment, all my problems disappear. When I'm lost, my whole family is lost too. In our family, we all care for each other.

Sometimes I train at the Laverton horse racing track on the dusty red dirt. It's the only spot with no prickles, and it's the only place with numbers where I can measure out my distance.

Sometimes when I run, I lap around the whole town. My family will be in the car, cheering me on.

MUM: Go, Lexie!

When I run, the world goes quiet. That's why I run.

Closer

Oh, good on you, Lexie. Well, the Heywire competition is actually open for entries right now. So if you live in the country and you've got a story to tell, you can get involved. The details are on the Heywire website.

Well, that's it from us today for the first episode back of BTN. I hope you've had fun. We'll have more stories for you next week. And in the meantime, you can check out our website or socials if you're 13 or over, and you can catch Newsbreak right here in the studio every weeknight. Have a great week and I'll see you soon. Bye!