

**EPISODE 25**
2 September 2025

**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.

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.

# Journalist Safety

1. What did the BTN story explain?
2. Where did ABC reporter Isabella Higgins report from when war broke out in 2022?
3. Why is it important for journalists to report on wars?
4. What type of identification do reporters wear in war zones?
5. Israel has not allowed foreign reporters to enter Gaza. True or false?

# Housing Problems

1. Summarise the BTN Housing Problems story.
2. What is the average cost of a house today?
3. After COVID house prices went down. True or false?
4. What is the main reason why houses are so expensive?
5. What is the Australian Government doing to try and solve the housing crisis? Give one example.

# PFAS App

1. What is PFAS?
2. When and why were PFAS invented?
3. What types of products contain PFAS? Name 1-2.
4. What health problems does PFAS cause?
5. What questions do you have about this story?

# Flag Day

1. What year did Australia get its national flag?
2. What are the main features on the Australian flag?
3. What constellation is featured on the Australian flag?
4. What flag is similar to Australia’s flag?
5. Why do some people have mixed feelings about the Australian flag?
6. Do you think the Australian flag should be redesigned? Give reasons for your answer.

Check out the [teacher](https://www.abc.net.au/btn/weekly-teacher-resources/10746906) resource on the Archives page.

# Outback Trumpeter

1. How much trumpet practise does Malcom do each day?
2. Where is Malcolm from? Find on a map of Australia.
3. When did Malcom start playing the trumpet?
4. What is Malcolm’s most meaningful trumpet performance?
5. How does Malcom feel when he rehearses at the Young Conservatorium?



**EPISODE 25**
2 September 2025

**KEY LEARNING**

Students will learn about the history of the Australian flag and conduct an opinion poll about whether the flag should be redesigned.

**CURRICULUM**

**HASS – Year 3**

Significant events, symbols and emblems that are important to Australia’s identity and diversity, and how they are celebrated, commemorated or recognised in Australia, including Australia Day, Anzac Day, NAIDOC Week, National Sorry Day, Easter, Christmas, and other religious and cultural festivals.

**HASS – Year 5**

Present descriptions and explanations, drawing ideas, findings and viewpoints from sources, and using relevant terms and conventions.

Teacher Resource

**Flag Day**

# 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 did Australia get its national flag?
2. What are the main features on the Australian flag?
3. What constellation is featured on the Australian flag?
4. What flag is similar to Australia’s flag?
5. Why do some people have mixed feelings about the Australian flag?
6. Do you think the Australian flag should be redesigned? Give reasons for your answer.

# Activity: What do you see, think & wonder?

After watching the BTN Flag Day story hold a *think, pair, share* using the following as discussion starters:

* What do you THINK about what you saw in the story?
* What does this video make you WONDER?
* What did you LEARN from the BTN story?
* Think of three QUESTIONS you have about the story.

# Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Flag Day story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to start the discussion:

* Describe the Australian national flag. What do the different elements of the flag represent?
* Why do we have a Australian national flag?
* What are the flags of Australia? What do they represent?
* When do you see the flags of Australia? Give some examples.
* Are flags important? Why or why not?

# Activity: Glossary

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOLISE | FEDERATION | REPRESENT |
| ENSIGN | UNION JACK | SOUTHERN CROSS |

# Activity: Design a New Flag

In this activity students will design a new Australian flag that they think best represents Australians and Australia’s history. Use the following as a guide for this activity.

* Include three symbols in your new flag design and describe what each of the symbols represent.
* Design your flag. Be creative!
* Present your flag design to the class explaining what each of the symbols mean.
* Display your flag in the classroom. Hold a competition in your class for the best flag.
* How has this activity impacted on your thinking about the Australian flag?

# Activity: Public Opinion

Students will interview a range of people to find out the different attitudes and feelings people have towards the Australian flag and whether it should be changed. Students will use the following as a guide during the interview process:

* Think about who you will interview, for example, family and/or friends.
* Prepare for your interview by writing some questions that you will ask your interviewee. Write open-ended questions. Open-ended questions have no right or wrong answer and can’t be answered with a ‘yes’ or ‘no’.
* Find out what the flag means to them.
* Ask if they think the Australian flag should be changed and ask them to explain their answer.
* Think about ways to record peoples’ responses – written, audio or video.

# Activity: Opinion Poll

Hold a poll in your class. Students will conduct their own opinion poll on the issue of whether the Australian flag should be redesigned. Working in groups, students will need to decide who their sample group will be and how many people will be polled.

* Write a poll question. Poll questions should be clear, concise, and relevant to the topic. For example, S*hould the Australian flag be redesigned?*
* What method will they use to conduct the poll? (Face to face interviews or written responses).
* Ask students to graph the opinion poll results and display in the classroom. Students can reflect on how reliable they think the results were. What would they do differently next time?
* Students may want to film their interviews and then create a movie to present to other students.

# Activity: Choose a project

Students will choose one of the following activities to work on and then present their findings to the class.



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags**What is the history of the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag? Who created them, why and when were they first flown?

**Summary**

Summarise the BTN Flag Day story in three sentences. Share your summary with another student. How did your summaries differ?

**State Flags**

Each Australian state and territory has its own flag. Research the flag of the state or territory you live in. What do the symbols represent?

**Did you know?**

Using the information in the BTN story and your own research, create a *Did You Know* fact sheet about Australian flags. Publish using [Canva](https://www.canva.com/en_gb/).

# Activity: Quiz

Students will use the facts they have discovered about flags to create a quiz and then test their classmates. Students will include a range of quiz styles, for example:

* Multiple choice
* True or false
* Fill in the blank
* Use photos or pictures
* When an answer is revealed, provide extra information to explain the answer.

Students can make their quizzes in [Kahoot](https://kahoot.com/student-centered-learning/) or [Quizizz](https://quizizz.com/?lng=en). Make it fun, engaging, and educational!

# Useful Websites

* [Australia’s Flag](https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/australias-flag/11460832) – BTN
* [Aboriginal Flag History](https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/aboriginal-flag-history/10489214) – BTN
* [The Australian flag](https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/fact-sheets/australian-flag) – National Archives of Australia
* [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags](https://australian.museum/learn/cultures/atsi-collection/cultural-objects/indigenous-australia-flags/) – Australian Museum
* [Australian Flag Defined](https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/australian-flag-defined) – National Museum of Australia
* [Flags](https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/defining-symbols-australia/flags) – National Museum of Australia
* [The Australian National Flag](https://www.pmc.gov.au/resources/australian-symbols-booklet/national-symbols/australian-national-flag) – Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Teacher Resource

**BTN Transcript: Episode 25 – 2/9/2025**

Hello, I'm Nat and you're watching BTN. Thanks for hanging out with us. Let's have a look at what's coming up on the show. We find out why owning a home is getting harder. Meet some students fighting the problem of forever chemicals and say happy anniversary to the Australian flag.

# Journalist Safety

Reporter: Wren Gillett

*INTRO: But first, we're going to take a closer look at the work of war reporters. Last week, five journalists were killed when Israel bombed one of Gaza's biggest hospitals, sparking anger and sadness around the world. Wren found out more and spoke to an ABC reporter about what it's like to work in the world's most dangerous places.*

REPORTER: Ground offensive. Just near me, we can see there are thousands of army tanks.

REPORTER: And there's this aircraft and one other from the UAE.

They're the people we turn to in times of war, to help us understand what's happening, in some of the world's most dangerous places.

REPORTER: Argh!

NEWS PRESENTER: Alright. Please take cover.

ISABELLA HIGGINS, ABC JOURNALIST: They've woken up from another difficult night and now they face day four of this invasion.

This is Isabella Higgins. She's worked as a foreign correspondent for the ABC and knows what it's like to report from a warzone.

ISABELLA HIGGINS: I was in Ukraine in 2022 when the war with Russia started. I was in the country when those very first air raid alarms went off at about 5:00 AM in the morning. And it was our job to tell Australians what was going on.

ISABELLA HIGGINS REPORTING: Ukrainians have woken up from a very difficult night, of course we know that that capital has been under a sustained and relentless attack throughout the night.

WREN GILLETT, BTN REPORTER: What was it like? Because obviously, you know, it's a very dangerous job.

ISABELLA HIGGINS: You wonder what's going to happen next. You wonder if the next loud bang is going to be even closer. Are you going to be lucky enough to make it down to the bomb shelter? You realise you are putting your own safety and your own life on the line for this job.

ISABELLA HIGGINS: From here Ukraine has just launched a strike and they're monitoring now, waiting for Russia's counterattack.

Isabella says war reporters take on that danger to try and give people an honest and balanced picture of what's going on.

ISABELLA HIGGINS: Obviously today we live in a world where there's so much video, there's so many photos online that we almost don't know what to believe, and journalists are sent to these places to help people around the world understand what they're seeing.

ARCHIVE: But rarely do you see the camera and the men behind it...

For a long time, people have recognised how important war reporting is, as a record of history and a way of holding the powerful accountable. It's why journalists are given special protections under international law. As long as they're not taking part in the fighting, they have to be treated as civilians, and deliberately attacking or harming them is a war crime. It's why they often have the word 'press' clearly labelled on their clothes and vehicles, so they're not mistaken for members of the military. But even with the right protection, and training, journalists are not guaranteed safety.

Over the past 30 years, more than 2,200 journalists and media workers have died while reporting from war zones. And last year, we saw the highest death toll since these records began. Most happening across Gaza.

STEPHANE DUJARRIC, UN SPOKESPERSON: At least 242 journalists have been killed in Gaza since the war began.

Israel isn't letting international media move freely inside of Gaza, because it says it's too dangerous, which means international media are relying on Palestinian reporters. And many have criticised Israel's leaders for not doing enough to protect them.

NEWS REPORT: At least 20 people have been killed including 5 journalists after the Israeli Military struck a hospital in Gaza twice in 10 minutes.

Israel apologised for this attack, which killed five journalists, calling it a 'tragic mishap'.

EFFIE DEFRINA, ISRAELI ARMY SPOKESPERSON: We are operating in an extremely complex reality. Hamas terrorists deliberately use civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, as shields. They have even operated from the Nasser hospital itself.

But it's made a lot of people, around the world, angry. And many leaders and advocates are calling for change.

THAMEEN AL-KHEETAN, UN SPOKESPERSON: These journalists are the eyes and the ears of the whole world, and they must be protected.

# News Quiz

Australia has expelled the ambassador of which country? It’s Iran. According to ASIO, Australia’s main intelligence agency, Iran was behind at least two attacks against Jewish business and communities in Australia.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINITER: These were extraordinary and dangerous acts of aggression, orchestrated by a foreign nation on Australian soil.

The Iranian ambassador and three other officials were given seven days to leave Australia and Australian diplomats left Iran.

PENNY WONG, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS: This is the first time in the post-war period that Australia has expelled an ambassador.

Australia post has paused most of its shipping to which country? It’s the US. It’s all because of new tariffs that the US is putting on things coming in from other countries. While you can still send letters, documents and gifts worth less than 150 dollars, anything worth more than that will get taxed. AusPost says it’ll try to figure out a solution for customers as soon as possible, but in the meantime it’s not great news for many Aussie businesses.

BUSINESS OWNER: All I can say is far out. It's going to kill my business 'cause a lot of my business is to the US.

What caption did Taylor Swift put on the post that she used to announce her engagement to NFL player Travis Kelce? Was it: “You belong with me”; “This love is golden, like daylight”; or “Your English teacher and Gym teacher are getting married?” It was this one. The post got a million likes in ten minutes and had a lot of fans pretty excited.

SOCIAL MEDIA COUPLE: Taylor and Travis are engaged.

Shut up! Go look at Instagram.

Are you kidding?

No.

Go look at Instagram right now.

# Housing Problems

Reporter: Gen Blandin de Chalain

*INTRO: Now, as you might already know, houses in Australia are pretty expensive. It's become a big problem for a lot of people and recently the government announced some new policies to try to get more people into a home of their own. Gen found out more.*

STUDENT: My dream house would look like maybe a two-storey house with the mountain views near.

STUDENT: It would probably be a two-storey, and it would probably be in somewhere like the lush meadows. What I'd probably have inside it is like maybe a bowling alley.

STUDENT: A big backyard, especially for a dog because I love dogs. Probably the beach.

STUDENT: I think it would be like maybe half buried in, like, the ground and like some nice long and around the forest. And the energy source would be nuclear fusion.

GENEVIEVE BLANDIN DE CHALAIN, REPORTER: Owning a home is a dream for most Aussies and it always has been.

OLD HOUSING ADVERTISEMENT: Close to the heart of every citizen is the thought that his home is his castle.

But fulfilling that Dream used to be a lot easier.

OLD HOUSING DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE: Oh yes, you've got everything, yes this is all you need.

When your grandparents were buying their first home the average cost of a house was around 25,000 dollars and the average Aussie earned about 7 and a half thousand dollars.

Today the average house costs $844,000. If you look at this graph you can see how fast housing prices have gone up in the past few decades.

AUCTIONEER: Sold. Congratulations!

AUCTIONEER: Sold! It's yours. Congratulations.

AUCTIONEER: Sold! Well done, sir.

After Covid, it got even worse with prices in some cities up by 50 to 70 per cent. It's a huge problem affecting a lot of people, especially young Aussies.

PERSON: It’s horrible, you apply for houses and get your hopes up and you don't get it.
PERSON: It seems unachievable to buy a home at any point.
PERSON: I'm just putting off thinking about it because it's really stressful.
PERSON: It kind of feels like that's a bit of a pipe dream which is hard to say.

So, why are houses so expensive? Experts say the main reason is supply and demand. Supply being the number of houses available and demand being the number of people who want them. Australia's population is growing. People are being born, they're living longer and lots of people are migrating to Australia. Which means more people who need somewhere to live and according to the government there just aren't enough houses being built. That's partly because there aren't enough builders, and partly because there's not enough land, at least in the places people want to live, and partly because of rules and regulations that make it harder to build. Some also say it's because too many people are buying houses as an investment and not to live in. It's left a lot of us asking two questions, what are they going to do about it? And will I ever be able to buy a house?

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: We're absolutely determined to do everything we can to fast-track home ownership.

Recently, the government announced a few new policies, which it says will help people get a house. It wants to make it easier to build new houses by pausing big changes to building laws, and expand a program designed to help people buy their first home by reducing the amount of money they need as a deposit.

CLARE O'NEIL, HOUSING MINISTER: We're seeing young people having to save for eight or nine years to build a deposit, with the 5% deposit program that our government is expanding we're seeing that timeline brought back to 2 or 3 years.

The trouble is a lot of experts say that could drive up housing prices even more.

Some reckon the government could do more to reduce housing prices, but that could make it prettyunpopular. A lot of people own houses and if prices dropped, they could be loose on their investment or be left paying off a mortgage that's worth more than their home. It's a big problem but a lot of Aussies are hoping we can find a solution so we can achieve the Great Australian Dream.

STUDENT: I wouldn't mind owning like five and like one could be a holiday house, one could be a working house.

STUDENT: Maybe like a holiday house, but not too many houses, too much work.

# PFAS App

Reporter: Wren Gillett

*INTRO: Some students in Bowral in New South Wales have created an award-winning app designed to help people identify PFAS in their groceries. And if you don't know what PFAS means, or why it's a problem, don't worry, Wren will fill you in.*

KID: Mmmm, smells swell.

WREN GILLETT, REPORTER: Yes. And it won't stick to the pan, thanks to polytetrafluoroethylene.

KID: Polytetra-WHAT?

WREN GILLETT: It's a type of polyfluoro-alkyl substance, or PFAS for short. PFAS are a type of chemical that resist heat, stains, water and grease, so that my pancakes slide right off the pan.

After PFAS chemicals were invented in the 1930s, they revolutionised the manufacturing industry.

ARCHIVE: With armour coat, it lifts out quickly and cleanly.

Because they repel both oil and water, they were really useful in all sorts of things.

ARCHIVE: Peels right off.

From stain-resistant carpets to cookware, to building materials.

ARCHIVE: These have been overcome by applying a special cement-based waterproof paint.

Today, there are more than 4,000 different types of PFAS, and they're still used in heaps of products. But there's a problem.

WREN GILLETT: Because of their strong chemical bonds, PFAS resist everything and they don't break down.

KID: Is that why they're called forever chemicals?

WREN GILLETT: Sure is.

PFAS chemicals can stick around for thousands of years. They dissolve in water and can disperse in the air, which means they can spread throughout the environment. And over the years, we've started to find them in places they weren't supposed to be. Including inside of us.

Recently, studies have linked PFAS exposure to a bunch of serious health problems, which is why stories like these have made headlines.

NEWS PRESENTER: There are now thousands of families in communities around the country affected by an unfolding scandal over chemical contamination.

NEWS PRESENTER: ...contaminated with so-called forever chemicals.

NEWS PRESENTER: Cancer-linked chemicals were discovered in the city's water supply.

In 2017, the water supply of Katherine in the NT had to be restricted because of PFAS contamination, which came from firefighting foam used at the local airport. Since then, PFAS has been found in other waterways. Last year, it was found in a platypus in Wingecarribee River in Bowral. It prompted some local students from Bowral High School to do something.

HENRY, STUDENT: PFAS is a problem, it affects us all, so we've all come together to design an app that will help and drive and change.

Henry, Chloe and Meg are part of a team of five students who've come up with an app designed to give people information about PFAS and help them identify products at the supermarket which contain forever chemicals.

HENRY: Our vision is that we have a product in Woolies, that may contain PFAS, and you can go up and scan it and then you can just be informed on where it came from, if it has PFAS in it, and possible alternatives that could be pfas free and serve the same purpose.

The idea won them a prize at the game Changer Challenge competition in New South Wales, and now, they're in talks with members of their state parliament to try to take it a step further, by bringing in laws that would force companies to label whether or not their products contain PFAS.

CHLOE, STUDENT: They're on board with the idea. So they're helping us set up a parliamentary petition, which basically means that if you get, I think it's ten, 20,000 online signatures...

HENRY: Yeah, 20,000 online signatures.

CHLOE..20,000 online signatures, it has to be debated in Parliament.

As we've learned more about the dangers of PFAS, many companies and Governments around the world have taken steps to reduce the amount that's used. Earlier this year, Australia banned three types of PFAS which are known to be the most harmful. But many experts and advocates say more needs to be done, which is why these guys are pushing so hard for change.

CHLOE: If you feel fear about something, make sure you go and learn about it. Information is power. Learn about it and talk about it. That's how you make a change.

# Flag Day

Reporter: Justina Ward

*INTRO: Did you know that September the third is Flag Day? It marks the date that the Aussie flag was raised for the very first time. Let's find out more about how the flag came to be and how people feel about it today.*

JUSTINA WARD, REPORTER: This is the national flag of Australia, but you probably already knew that.

FLAG: Oh, yes, I did.

Well, what you might not know is how this symbol of national identity came to be.

FLAG: Oh, they found me in the BTN props department.

Yeah, but before that.

FLAG: Someone ordered me online?

No, before that. The year was 1901. Australia had just become a federation. The collection of British colonies united to form a brand, new country with its own government and it needed a flag.

There already been some attempts to design a flag for all Australians, but Prime Minister Edmund Barton decided to hold an official competition to choose a new design. There were 33,000 entries, but there could only be one winner. Well, actually, there were five, who all pretty much came up with the same idea.

As we know it, it features the Union Jack, the flag of the UK, but we'll flag for later. That's a flag joke.

FLAG: Yes, we got it

It also features the Southern Cross, a constellation that is almost always visible anywhere in Australia.

FLAG: Except when it's cloudy or there are some trees in the way.

And finally a six pointed star representing each of the six states.

FLAG: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7. Wait, I count 7 points.

Oh, ah yes, the seventh point was added later to represent all of the territories.

There were two versions of the flag, a blue one and a red one, and on September 3rd, 1901, the blue design rose for the first time over the Melbourne Exhibition building. But reactions to the new flag were mixed.

FLAG: Hey.

To some it was an inspiring sight, but some said it looked close to the British flag, and others thought it was too similar to the flag of the flag of Victoria.

FLAG: It is pretty similar.

Still, it became the flag of Australia, flown in times of hardship and celebration. Today you can find it in all sorts of places: at big events, small events, on big polls, small poles, and south poles.

There are still some mixed feelings about the flag.

FLAG: What? Why?

Well, for starters, there's the Union Jack.

FLAG: Oh, yes. You did say you'd flagged this for later.

To some, the British flag is an important symbol of Australia's past, but for many First Nations people it's a reminder of colonisation and the loss of their land, and a big percentage of Aussies don't have British ancestry, and some reckon we've be better off with a flag that represents everyone.

Plus, Australia's flag does look kind of similar to New Zealand's and the Cook Islands and Tuvalu's. In fact, it used to be kind of similar to the flags of most commonwealth countries, but over the years nearly all of them redesigned their flags and ditched the Union Jack. There's been a few attempts to redesign Australia's flag, too, but many Aussies love it just as it is.

FLAG: Aww. So, what you do you think?

STUDENT: If I had to, I might change it a little, like add the Aboriginal colours in there and I'd still keep the six stars maybe.

STUDENT: If we change it, then that means we can represent more than just Australia itself. We can represent the old owners of this land, which were here around 60,000 years ago.

STUDENT: I think you should just stay the same. It's fine that way.

STUDENT: It should be split diagonally. On one side it should have like the Aboriginal flag and it's like sunset and then on the other side it would have like the Southern Cross.

Now, off to the props room until we need you again.

FLAG: Wait, wait. Can you at least let me wave in the wind for a little bit? I just love to wave.

Sure.

FLAG: WEEEEE...

# Quiz

Do you know the name of this Australian flag? It's the Eureka Flag, and it was first flown by protesting miners during the Eureka Rebellion in 1854. Since then, it's become a symbol of democracy and workers' rights.

# Sport

Oscar Piastri has won the Dutch Grand Prix. The McLaren driver led the action-packed race right from the start, with his team-mate Lando Norris nipping at his heels. But the battle came to a grinding halt when this happened.

COMMENTATOR: Lando Norris has a problem.

LANDO NORRIS: Yeah, I think... I don't know if I'm on fire or not.

Norris had to quit the race with only seven laps to go, but Oscar's McLaren powered on, taking him to his ninth career win.

At the Women's Rugby World Cup in England, Australia's Wallaroos drew 31-all in a nail-biting game against the USA. Teenage stars Desiree Miller and Caitlyn Halse scored two tries each for the Aussies, but a hat-trick from USA's Freda Tafuna helped bring her team back into the battle. The Wallaroos will now face England next week with hopes of heading to the quarterfinals.

And finally to the Sydney Marathon, where around 35,000 people from around the world took on the gruelling 42.2km course. Sifan Hassan from the Netherlands won the women's race, crossing the finish line in two hours, 18 minutes and 22 seconds, smashing the women's record by more than three minutes.

SIFAN HASSAN: It is big history for me.

Ethiopia's Hailemaryam Kiros won the men's event, clocking in at a time of two hours, six minutes and six seconds - the fastest person to ever run a marathon in Australia.

# Outback Trumpeter

Rookie Reporter: Malcolm

*INTRO: Finally, today we're going to meet Malcolm, who's a winner of the ABC's Heywire competition, which asks young people living in regional areas to share their stories. Malcolm is from Longreach and he's going to tell you about his ambition to be a world class trumpeter. Check it out.*

I start practising at 6am. Two hours in the morning. One hour in the evening. Every day. That's how much I need to train if I want to make it onto the world stage. I live in Longreach, a town where people come for the outback Queensland experience. There's roughly 1,000 kilometres between me and the resources I need to be a professional classical musician. But I refuse to let distance be a barrier.

I come from a musical household. When I was eight my grandfather gifted me his 100-year-old trumpet. That’s what got me started. Mum’s a pianist and helped me in the beginning. I would listen to a piece of music and practise and practise until I sounded just like it.

Four years ago, I started lessons with a professional trumpet player. We Skype on weekends.

MARK, TUTOR: How's the practice going?

MALCOLM: Yeah, it's going good, Mark.

Mark gives me specific exercises and techniques for trumpet.

MARK: What we're going to do is buzzing number one on the Buzzing Book.

One of the most meaningful performances for me is Remembrance Day. It's my way of paying respect to people like my grandfather who served and thanking my parents who have sacrificed so much so I can keep playing and improving. It's also my way of giving back to my community. Without their donations I wouldn’t be able to travel to Brisbane regularly to play in the Young Conservatorium.

I’ll never forget the feeling I got on my first rehearsal. Working with other amazing musicians to create this big sound, playing this crazy hard music. It’s like nothing else. It’s euphoric and it makes me a better musician. One day I hope when people think of Longreach they think of a world-famous trumpet player.

**Closer**

Amazing work Malcolm. That's all we've got for today, but we'll be back with more next week. And in the meantime, jump on our website whenever you like to check out more stories and other fun stuff and I'll be here in the studio every weeknight to keep you up to date with BTN Newsbreak. Have a great week and I'll see you soon. Bye.