



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.

Film Tariffs

1. What is a tariff?
2. Why does President Donald Trump want to introduce a tariff on movies made overseas?
3. Name a big film production that was made in Australia?
4. The tariff will have a negative impact on the Australian film industry. True or false?
5. What questions do you have about the BTN Film Tariffs story?

Women in Parliament

1. Name one woman who is currently in Australian parliament?
2. Which Australian state was the first in the world to let women run for election?
3. Who were the first women to be elected to federal parliament in Australia?
4. Who was Australia's first female prime minister? When was she elected?
5. Why is it important to have women in parliament? Give one reason.

VE Day Anniversary

1. Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. What does VE Day commemorate?
3. Who is mainly responsible for starting World War 2?
4. Australia fought in World War 2. True or false?
5. Name three facts you learnt watching the story.

Walk Safely to School Day

1. In pairs, discuss the BTN Walk Safely to School story. Record the main points.
2. What are the benefits of walking to school? Name 2-3.

EPISODE 12

13 May 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.

3. 40 years ago, what percent of kids walked to school?
 - a. 25%
 - b. 50%
 - c. 75%
4. Nowadays, approximately how many kids walk to school?
5. Name 3 ways to be safe when walking to school.

School Support Dog

1. Think of at least three words to describe facility dogs.
2. How does Iris the facility dog make the students feel?
3. What activities do the students do with Iris? Name 2.
4. How did Iris become a facility dog? Describe her training.
5. What did you like about the BTN story?



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Women in Parliament

Focus Questions

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1. Name one woman who is currently in Australian parliament?
2. Which Australian state was the first in the world to let women run for election?
3. Who were the first women to be elected to federal parliament in Australia?
4. Who was Australia's first female prime minister? When was she elected?
5. Why is it important to have women in parliament? Give one reason.

Activity: What do you see, think and wonder?

Students will watch the BTN Women in Parliament story, then respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have?


Activity: Ask a Question

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

Below are some examples from the PEO's "Your Questions on Notice"

"Have there been any female speakers?" – [Response](#)

"Did any women contribute to the Constitution or was it mainly aimed at men at the time it was written?" – [Response](#)



What questions do you have?

EPISODE 12

13 May 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about significant political milestones for Australian women.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3 and 4

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

HASS – Year 5

Examine different viewpoints on actions, events, issues and phenomena in the past and present

HASS – Year 6

Examine different viewpoints on actions, events, issues and phenomena in the past and present.

History – Year 6

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children.

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

Civics and Citizenship – Year 6

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

Activity: Historical Timeline

After watching the BTN story students will research and identify key events and people in the history of women in Australian parliament. Students will then create a timeline showing their research. Students will need Post-it notes, pens, pencils and pieces of paper (A3 or long lengths of paper) to record their findings.

In small groups, students will draft their timelines using Post-it notes to record each key event or significant person in the history of women in politics. Students will move the Post-it notes around as necessary and once dates are confirmed write them into their timeline posters. Students will include a title, photos and captions on their timelines.

Students will research the history of women in politics and decide what should or should not be included in the timeline. Below is a list of important Australian milestones for students to research.

Key Milestones in Australia	Who and/or when?
When were women given the right to vote ?	
When could women stand for federal election ?	
Who and when was the first woman elected to state parliament ?	
Who and when was the first woman elected to federal parliament ?	
Who and when was the first woman elected to the office of Speaker ?	
Who and when was the first woman to lead a state or territory government ?	
Who and when was the first woman appointed governor-general ?	
Who and when was the first female prime minister ?	
Who and when was the first female Indigenous federal parliamentarian ?	
How many seats in the House of Representatives are held by women? Compare over the years.	
How many seats in the Senate are held by women? Compare over the years.	

Students will present their information on a timeline and respond to one or more of the following research questions:

- Find 1-3 interesting facts about each significant event on your timeline. Why are they significant?
- Which events on the timeline do you think are especially significant? Why?
- How has the representation of women in Australian politics changed over time? Use a graph to show your findings.
- Why is it important to have gender representation in government?
- Who were the suffragettes?

Activity: Biography

Students will research and write a biography of an Australian woman in politics exploring her life, career, achievements, and impact. Before they begin their biographies, discuss what students already know about biographies. What type of information is included in a biography and what do they tell us about a person.

Class Discussion

Use the questions below to get a class discussion started with your students about biographical writing.

- What does a biography tell us about a person?
- Where can you look to find information for your biographical writing? Why is it important to use more than one source of information?
- What makes a biography interesting? For example, key information and facts, a timeline of events, photographs, illustrations and quotes.



Create your Biography

Using the biography worksheet at the end of this activity, students will research and record information.

Some possible areas of research include:

- When and where was she born? Describe her family life growing up.
- What were some of her achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What inspired her to enter politics?
- What were some challenges that she faced and how did she overcome them?
- What contributions did she make to Australian society?
- What do you admire about her?
- Interesting facts about her.

Further Investigation

Interview

- Imagine you could sit down and talk to the person. What questions would you ask about her life and achievements?
- In pairs, students can role play the interview – one taking on the role of interviewer, the other, as the person.

Portrait

- Create a portrait of the person.
- Think about expressions, symbolism, and colours that reflect the person, their values, and their impact.
- Explore and experiment with different techniques and mediums.
- Organise a class exhibition.

Timeline

- Create a timeline of important events in their life.
- What are some of the key events in her life? Write a summary for one key event, which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Activity: Listening and Responding

As a class visit the [ABC Fierce Girls](#) website to find stories of trailblazing Australian women in politics who've made an extraordinary contribution to society, including:



Julia Gillard — the girl who became Australian Prime Minister.
(Source: [ABC Fierce Girls](#))



Edith Cowan — the girl who changed the rules.
(Source: [ABC Fierce Girls](#))



Nova Peris — the girl who won gold in two sports then got elected to parliament.
(Source: [ABC Fierce Girls](#))

After listening to one or more of the podcasts discuss what your student's reactions are to the story and how it made them feel.

- What is your initial response to her story?
- How did the stories about her life make you feel?
- What challenges did she face?
- What important achievements did she make?
- How did she contribute to society?
- What question would you like to ask?

Useful Websites

- [Record-breaking number of women to enter Australian parliament](#) – ABC News
- [Australian Women in Politics](#) – BTN
- [First women in parliament](#) – National Museum Australia
- [Women's suffrage](#) – National Museum Australia
- [1943: First women in Australian parliament](#) – National Museum Australia (Digital Classroom)
- [Australia's first women parliamentarians](#) – Parliament of Australia
- [Edith Cowan](#) – BTN
- [Nova Peris](#) – BTN

BIOGRAPHY

Name

Born

Family

btn



Teacher Resource

VE Day Anniversary

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. Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. What does VE Day commemorate?
3. Who is mainly responsible for starting World War 2?
4. Australia fought in World War 2. True or false?
5. Name three facts you learnt watching the story.

Activity: Personal Response


After watching the BTN VE Day Anniversary story, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- Learning about WWII and VE Day made me feel...
- This BTN story made me wonder why...
- It was interesting to learn that...
- BTN covered this because...


Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN VE Day Anniversary story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to guide discussion:

- When did World War II start and finish?
- Who were the Axis powers?
- Who were the Allies?
- Who was the leader of the Nazi Party?
- What does VE stand for?
- Why is VE Day significant?



What do you know about World War II?



What questions do you have?

EPISODE 12

13 May 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about VE Day and significant events during the Second World War.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Years 5 & 6

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

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

History – Year 7

Develop historical questions about the past to inform historical inquiry.

Locate and identify primary and secondary sources to use in historical inquiry.

Identify the origin, content, context and purpose of primary and secondary sources.

Activity: Word Cloud

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN VE Day Anniversary story and create a word cloud. A word cloud is a visual made up of important/key words relating to a topic. Ask students to think of words they associate with the VE Day. Create a word cloud using a free online word cloud creator such as [Word It Out](#). Working in pairs, students can clarify the meanings of the words included in their word clouds.

Allies
Axis Powers WWII
VE Day
Unconditional Surrender
Victory

Activity: VE Day Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN VE Day Anniversary story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

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

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

- Who were the Allies and what did they want to achieve?
- What were the events that started WWII?
- What were the events leading up to VE Day?
- What is an unconditional surrender? Which General accepted Germany's unconditional surrender?
- Did VE Day officially mark the end of WWII? Explain your answer.
- How were the effects of WWII felt long after the War ended? (Political, social and economic)

Research significant events in WWII and create a timeline. For example – Germany invades Poland September 1939, Germany surrenders May 1945.

Activity: Visual Literacy

In this activity students will look at a range of images that relate to VE Day. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following:

- What do you see in the image? Describe the setting and who is in the image.
- What is happening in the image?
- How do you think the people in the image might be feeling?
- What questions would you like to ask the people in the image?
- Create a caption for each image.



[Source of image](#)



[Source of Image](#)



[Source of image](#)



[Source of image](#)

Activity: Quiz

Students will use the facts they have discovered about VE Day and WWII 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](#) or [Quizizz](#). Make it fun, engaging, and educational!

Useful Websites

- [VE Day: What is it, when is it and why do we remember?](#) – Newsround
- [VE Day](#) – BTN
- [What you need to know about VE Day](#) – Imperial War Museum
- [Victory in Europe \(VE\) Day](#) – Australian War Memorial
- [World War II Special](#) – BTN



Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 12- 13/5/2025

Yaama. I'm Jack Evans and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. We find out about the history and future of women in parliament, learn about VE Day and get healthy by walking to school.

Film Tariffs

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: First up today, to the movie business, which got a bit of a shock last week when US president Donald Trump announced plans to put a 100% tax on films made outside of the US. Let's find out more about what that could mean for Hollywood and for film makers here in Australia.

JACK EVANS, REPORTER: When you think of a Hollywood block buster you might think of mega celebrities, out of this world CGI, epic stunts and Australia?

DIRECTOR JACK: Cut! In the past few... urgh

In the past few years the film industry in Australia has boomed, with a huge amount of Hollywood films opting to make them down under. But that's something US President, Donald Trump, wants to change.

DIRECTOR JACK: Let's take it again from the top!

Recently he announced that he wants to introduce a 100% tariff or tax on movies made overseas to try to bring more jobs back to the US.

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT: I'm not looking to hurt the industry, I want to help the industry. But they're given financing by other countries, they're given a lot of things, and the industry was decimated.

You see for a long time Hollywood films were made in, well, Hollywood. Whether they were set in fantastic realms or far-away lands, most big films of Hollywood's golden age were shot on big sets on studio lots in Burbank California or in parts of California that could kinda pass for other countries. Meanwhile in Australia we were making Australian films in Australian places. But these days movies are international affairs. A film might be shot in multiple countries with different crews. The visual effects might be done in one country, with the sound mix done in another country and then the whole thing will be put together in another country.

Many countries, including Australia, offer tax breaks and other deals to encourage overseas film and TV show makers to bring their productions overseas.

FOX: Growwwls

PETER RABBIT: It was you, I knew it!

Between 2023 and 2024 Screen Queensland generated more than 493 million from 83 films, TV series and digital games, and many worry that a tariff could have a big impact on that.

ROBERT CONNOLLY, FILM DIRECTOR: We have crews, we have infrastructure, we have studios, and if they go away, that's going to have a profound effect on our national industry.

It's not entirely sure how a tariff on films would work. Because tariffs are usually put on goods like steel and aluminium and coffee. Not films, which only exist as a bunch of pixels.

DIRECTOR JACK: I said a latte, ugh.

Some reckon the idea could also end up costing US film makers a lot more.

KATE CARNELL, INDEPENDENT CHAIR SCREEN PRODUCERS AUSTRALIA: The costs of production in the US aren't going to go down, if anything they'd go up.

Meanwhile, others say Australia's film industry should focus on making more original Aussie stories.

ROBERT CONNOLLY: I would always argue that we're better off diverting funds, the hundreds of millions Australia spends on attracting those big American films really, to Australia. Spending on our local industry to make sure we have a robust industry that can survive these kinds of things.

In any case, Mr Trump says he will meet with film industry officials before he makes any decisions. So, until then it's still lights, camera, action.

News Quiz

Do you know the significance of this white smoke that was seen above the Sistine Chappel on Thursday? It meant a new Pope had been elected. It happened on the second day of the papal conclave, which is where Cardinals vote for a new leader of the catholic church, and this is who they picked.

TRANSLATED: God loves us, loves you all and evil will not prevail.

His name was Cardinal Robert Prevost but as Pope he'll be known as Leo the fourteenth. And while he's speaking Italian here, he was actually born in Chicago and is the first ever Pope from the USA. He's also a citizen of Peru where he lived and worked for years so it was pretty special day for Peruvians and Americans.

CATHOLIC: So happy. It's so special. My heart is so full.

CATHOLIC: Habemus papam!

Speaking of new leaders, the Australian Greens will need a one after their former boss, Adam Bandt, lost his seat last week. Do you know which electorate he used to represent? Was it Adelaide, Melbourne or Brisbane? It was Melbourne.

Which one of these paintings won this year's Archibald Portrait Prize? A, b, or c? It was A. Julie Fragar won the 100-thousand-dollar prize for her portrait of Justene Williams.

Which art gallery hosted a bunch of well-dressed celebrities last week for a famous fundraising event? Was it the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the Museum of Modern Art? It was the Metropolitan Museum of Art, otherwise known as the Met.

Women in Parliament

Reporter: Saskia Mortarotti

INTRO: The votes are still being counted from the election, but it's already broken some records including the most wins for female candidates. Sas found out more about the women headed to parliament and their

place in history.

SOPHIE SCAMPS, MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR: Good on you Mackellar.

ALI FRANCE, MEMBER FOR DICKSON: I was told that I didn't stand a chance. I took all of that in and went yeah, nah.

SASKIA MORTAROTTI, REPORTER: These are just some of the women who are a part of our country's 48th Parliament. And it'll be a record-breaking parliament because this election Australia voted in more women than ever before. The votes are still being counted but we know that at least 65 seats in the House of Representatives will be held by women. Most of them from the Labor government. Along with quite a few crossbenchers, whilst the Liberal party has its first female leader Susan Ley.

Meanwhile, women will hold at least 41 of the 76 Senate seats, which is more than half. Now, you may be thinking, What's the big deal? After all, we're pretty used to seeing women hold high positions in government. But things haven't always been this way. For a long time no Australian woman, in fact, any woman in the world had the right to vote, let alone stand for Parliament. And for a long time, women fought to change that. In 1894, the South Australian government became the second in the world to give women the right to vote, and the first in the world to let women run for election. 8 years later, the newly federated nation of Australia passed similar laws allowing women to vote and stand in parliament. Although some states still had laws excluding Indigenous people from those rights. The first woman to sit in an Australian parliament was Edith Cowan in Western Australia in 1921. But it wasn't until 1943 that the first women were elected to federal Parliament. Their names were Dorothy Tangney and Enid Lyons, and they walked into Parliament side-by-side.

DAME ENID LYONS, FORMER MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: This is the first occasion upon which a woman has addressed this house. For that reason, it's an occasion which for every woman in the Commonwealth marks in some degree, a turning point in history.

At the time, there weren't even women's toilets in parliament house.

And a lot of people were still prejudiced about the roles women should play.

DAME ENID LYONS: It isn't so easy because the majority of men selectors are highly prejudice against the idea of women taking part.

Over the years, the number of women in Parliament has continued to grow.

JOAN CHILD, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: But I hope that in the future, we'll be represented in numbers, according to our numbers in the electorates.

We've had female speakers, Governor Generals, and in 2010, our first, and only, female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard. In 2013, Nova Peris became the first Indigenous woman to sit in Parliament. All of these women have paved the way for where we are today. So that now it can feel like the norm when women vote, and when women are elected.

STUDENT: If there's women in parliament, then it inspires other women.

STUDENT: It doesn't matter about the gender it mostly just matters about if they're gonna take care of our country and if they're good at it.

STUDENT: Most women and men work together and they make a good team.

STUDENT: It's good for everyone to have a voice, because everyone deserves that.

Quiz

Which was the first government in the world to grant women the right to vote? Was it the US, Canada or New Zealand? It was New Zealand. New Zealand gave female citizens the right to vote in 1893, a year before South Australia.

VE Day Anniversary

Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: Last week the world marked 80th anniversary of VE Day. That stands for Victory in Europe, and it was the day that Nazi Germany surrendered, ending the second world war in Europe. Here's Wren to tell you more.

WREN GILLETT, BTN REPORTER: It's May 8th, 1945. And streets in cities across the world are full of people, celebrating the end of more than five years of conflict.

OLD NEWS REPORT: Years full of suffering and death and sacrifice.

World War II began because of this man, Adolf Hitler. Hitler rose to power in the early 1930s. He was a powerful speaker, who took advantage of the anger that a lot of Germans were feeling after losing the First World War, and being forced to surrender money, land and military power. Hitler and the Nazi Party promised to restore Germany to its former greatness and directed the country's anger towards a number of minority groups, especially the Jewish community. He wanted to create a so-called "pure" German race, which he called Aryan, and punished people who didn't fit this image, or who disagreed with the Nazis.

In 1938, the Nazis took over Austria. But it wasn't until they invaded Poland in 1939, with the help of the Soviet Union, that World War II began. You see, Poland had strong allies, France and Britain, who declared war on Germany. As part of the British empire, Australia joined the war, along with New Zealand and Canada. Germany had some early wins. They conquered Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, and then invaded France in 1940. They were joined by Italy, although it later changed sides, and Japan, which was waging its own war with China. But soon, more nations joined the other side, known as the Allies.

In 1941, the USSR went to war with Germany after it was invaded by the Nazis, in an operation that killed around 8 million people. The same year, China also joined the allies, along with the US. It was brought into the war when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, killing over two thousand people.

There was now fighting taking place from the streets of Europe to the deserts of Africa, to the jungles of the Pacific. Meanwhile, back in Germany and German-occupied countries, Adolf Hitler was carrying out the biggest mass killing the world had ever seen.

The Nazis built prisons known as concentration camps, where they sent millions of Jewish people, along with religious and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and different sexual identities, and those who opposed the Nazis. 11 million people died in what's now known as the Holocaust.

For a while, Germany looked set to win the war, but a few big battles changed everything. Germany tried to invade the city of Stalingrad in Russia but underestimated Soviet forces and the bitterly cold weather. Then, one year later in 1944, on what is now known as D-Day, the Allies carried out the biggest ever land, air and sea mission to take back Nazi occupied Europe. They took back France, along with other parts of Western Europe, while Soviet forces pushed back Germans from the other side. In January 1945, one of the biggest

concentration camps, Auschwitz, was liberated by the Soviet Army, and in April, the Soviets stormed Berlin. In less than two weeks, Germany's capital was captured, and Hitler was dead. A few days later, what was left of the Nazi party surrendered.

HARRY S. TRUMAN, 33RD US PRESIDENT: This is a solemn but glorious hour.

It wasn't the end of the war that would come In September when Japan surrendered. But it was still a huge cause for celebration. 80 years later, crowds continue to gather in cities across the world, to remember what the day meant then and now. World leaders say it's important for us to remember the past, to honour the people who died, and make sure history does not repeat itself.

KING CHARLES III: We shall have failed, and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace.

Quiz

Can you name this famous war-time leader? It's UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Walk Safely to School Day

Reporter: Saskia Mortarotti

INTRO: This Friday kids around Australia are being encouraged to get out of the car and make their way to school on foot. It's National Walk Safely to School Day which was created to try to get more kids active. Here's Sas.

SASKIA MORTAROTTI, REPORTER: Yeah, it can be pretty cool to walk to school. You know that's true, 'cos it rhymes.

STUDENT: It's fun walking to school because, on the way, I get to see my friends and see new things.

STUDENT: You get to know like, all the places around you so you don't get lost.

STUDENT: Sometimes we race to school to see who's like, there first.

And as well as being fun, walking to school is good for you.

STUDENT: It keeps your fitness up and also gets you energised and ready for the day.

STUDENT: Going in to a seat of the car and just like sitting down on and it's just like I'm being lazy, but when I actually just walk there, I feel healthier.

It's also really good for mental health and can boost your mood.

STUDENT: Makes me feel energised.

Experts reckon walking can have an impact on your creativity, focus, and even your academic performance. Plus, it helps the planet by reducing the amount of traffic on the road.

STUDENT: I'm really passionate about the environment, so I really enjoy knowing that I've done my little bit.

For all those reasons, this Friday kids around Australia are being encouraged to walk safely to school.

HAROLD SCRUBY, PEDESTRIAN COUNCIL AUSTRALIA: Let's get people out of their cars. Let's start walking. Let's hold hands. Let's create community.

Harold here is from the Australia Pedestrian Council. So, he's pretty passionate about pounding the pavement. But he says not enough kids are doing it. Stats show that 40 years ago, around 75% of kids got to school by walking or riding their bike. But now, only about one in five of you are walking or riding to school. There are lots of reasons for that. From spread out cities, to busy after-school lives. But a lot of parents say it's because they're worried about safety. Although experts say it's actually safer to walk to school now than it was back in the day.

HAROLD SCRUBY: We didn't appreciate the danger of speed and children. Today, we're much more aware of it and we've got school zones in most places. It's much safer.

But, of course, safety is really important. So how do we put the safely in Walk Safely to School Day?

STUDENT: Tip 1. Avoid distractions.

Yeah, there can be a lot of distractions when walking to school. It's important that we are staying alert and aware of our surroundings. That means, devices away.

STUDENT: Tip 2. Stop and check.

Whether you're crossing a road, or walking past a driveway, it's important to check that the close is clear. So always come to a complete stop, and both look and listen out for any cars. And always use crossings.

STUDENT: Tip 3. Know your route.

It's a good idea to plan your route to school before you leave and even practice it with an adult beforehand, so you know the best, quickest, and safest way to school.

It's also a good idea to plan and know where you can go if you are worried.

STUDENT: Tip 4. Join forces.

Walking with a group is a great way to stay safe, so if you know other people at your school you can walk with, try organising to walk together. It's also more fun this way. And if you live too far away to walk, try getting dropped off a little further, or, hopping off the bus a stop away, so you can still get in on the action.

Sport

If you felt like this weekend's round of AFL was a bit more nerve racking than usual, well, you might be onto something.

COMMENTATOR: The Giants have done it again!

In fact, the AFL says round nine was the closest-fought since the league's modern era began, with an average winning margin of just 10.33 points.

Take this thriller between the Richmond Tigers and West Coast Eagles.

COMMENTATOR: By two points.

Or this nail-biter between second-last on the ladder, the North Melbourne Kangaroos, and the defending premiers Brisbane Lions, which ended in a 71-point draw.

Meanwhile these Tasmanian cheerleaders have taken out a big win in the U.S. The Wynyard Wildcatz had never competed out of the state before but surprised themselves by taking out the top prize in the Youth Novice division at Nfinitys FINALS cheerleading comp in Orlando, Florida.

Finally, the Giro d'Italia in Albania saw some unexpected action. New Zealand cyclist Dion Smith almost ended up in a ditch after the stray goat cut him off. Luckily the goat was fine and Dion Smith managed to finish the course scot-free.

School Support Dog

Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: Finally, today, we're going to meet Iris, a very lovable labrador who's got an important job helping school students. Here's Wren.

WREN GILLETT, BTN REPORTER: Meet Iris, she's six years old, a big fan of treats, naturally. And here at Wirreanda Secondary College, she's kind of a big deal, I mean she even has her own Instagram account.

STUDENT: She is a celebrity.

STUDENT: Everyone just wants to pat her and be with her.

But Iris is popular for a lot more than just her gorgeous black coat.

STUDENT: Iris has helped me to, like, feel more confident and calm.

STUDENT: She makes me feel welcome to come to school and safe when I'm with her.

STUDENT: I just know that she'll brighten my day.

MANDY SHERMAN, IRIS' HANDLER: So, Iris works here full-time at Wirreanda Secondary School as a facility dog.

Which means she's here to...

STUDENT: Help you with your disability or mental health, whatever you have.

There are lots of different ways these guys hang out with Iris. They can groom and pet her, read with her, play with her, make things with her they even teach her tricks.

STUDENT: Spin.

And of course they can take her for a walk.

MANDY: So, I thought we'd go for a bit of a walk today, just to have a bit of a check in.

STUDENT: When I was struggling in the class, I just emailed Mandy, asked her if she could come and get me, and we just went for a calming walk. I just felt like, a lot better. And like, ready to go back to class, and like, for the rest of the school day.

Iris' job isn't one that just any dog can do, she's had years of training. In fact, she actually started off as a guide dog puppy. Guide Dogs Australia breeds and trains dogs to help people who are blind or visually impaired navigate the world. It's a very complex job that requires a very specific type of dog with exactly the right temperament, and not all guide dog puppies are suited to the role. But that doesn't mean these pups can't continue to help people in other ways. And just like Guide dogs, there are a few rules to follow around working dogs like Iris.

STUDENT: If she has her bandana on, you can pat her if she has her jacket on with no bandana, she's working with someone, and if she has no bandana and no jacket, that means you can still pet her.

It's now been five years since Iris arrived at Wirreanda Secondary School, and in that time, she's changed lots of lives.

STUDENT: Iris has helped me in a lot of ways.

STUDENT: She had helped me with my mental health lately and like, how to cope, to get into class and stuff like that.

STUDENT: Sometimes I have bad days and sometimes I have good days, and she helped me with my bad days.

STUDENT: Iris is a friend that everyone wants to have. Because I have iris and that make me feel really special. So, I know it'd make everyone else feel very special.

STUDENT: She just loves everyone, including me, yeah.

STUDENT: She is the best dog.

Closer

Well, that's all we have for today, but we'll be back next week with more. In the meantime, you can stay up to date with Newsbreak every weeknight or you can jump online whenever you like. there's plenty to see and do. Have a great week and I'll see you next time. Bye.