



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.

Diphtheria

1. In pairs or small groups, discuss the BTN story and record the main points of the discussion.
2. What causes diphtheria?
 - a. Bacteria
 - b. Virus
 - c. Fungi
3. What year was the first safe vaccine for diphtheria developed?
4. Diphtheria is contagious. True or false?
5. What questions do you have about the BTN story?

Children's Online Privacy Code

1. What is a digital footprint?
2. How is your digital footprint created? Give 2 examples.
3. What are internet cookies?
4. How many rules are in the proposed Children's Online Privacy Code?
5. What is a rule in the proposed Children's Online Privacy Code? Give one example.

Native Title

1. What is native title?
2. What does terra nullius mean?
3. Where was Eddie Mabo from? Find on a map.
4. What do Traditional Owners have to prove to get native title?
5. What did you learn watching this story?

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

Torres Strait Islander Flag

1. Where are the Torres Strait Islands? Find on a map.
2. How many islands in the Torres Strait are inhabited?

EPISODE 15

2 June 2026

KEY LEARNING

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

CURRICULUM

English – Year 4

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

English – Year 5

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

English – Year 6

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

3. When was the Torres Strait Islander flag created? Tell the story of how it was created using your own words.
4. What colours can be found on the Torres Strait Islander flag?
 - a. Green, blue, black, white
 - b. Red, yellow, black
 - c. Blue, white, red
5. What do the colours of the Torres Strait Islander flag represent?

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

Young Pilot

1. Rose Donald has her private pilot's license. True or false?
2. What record has Rose just broken?
3. What inspired Rose to take on the challenge?
4. What charity has Rose partnered with?
 - a. Little Wings
 - b. Royal Flying Doctor Service
 - c. Angle Flight
5. What advice does Rose give to young people?



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Native Title

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 is native title?
2. What does terra nullius mean?
3. Where is Eddie Mabo from? Find on a map.
4. What do Traditional Owners have to prove to get native title?
5. What did you learn watching this story?

Activity: Comprehension

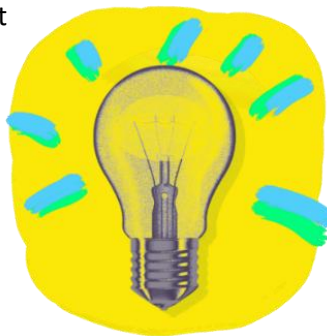
After watching the BTN Native Title story students can answer one or more of the following comprehension questions, for example:

- What are some keywords from the BTN story?
- What did you learn from the story? Write a summary.
- What is the purpose of this news story? To entertain, persuade, inform, explain or describe?
- Why do you think BTN covered this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Native Title story. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- Why is Country important to First Nations peoples?
- Who was Eddie Mabo?
- Where was Eddie Mabo from?
- What was Eddie Mabo fighting for?
- What is native title?
- What does the term 'terra nullius' mean?
- Why was the Mabo decision important?



EPISODE 15

2 June 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of native title and the significance of the Mabo decision.

CURRICULUM

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 4

The diversity of First Nations Australians, their social organisation and their continuous connection to Country/Place.

HASS – Year 5 and 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

This document contains the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

Activity: Key Words

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

EDDIE MABO	NATIVE TITLE	TERRA NULLIUS
CROWN LAND	FIRST NATIONS	HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

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.

Activity: Native Title Research

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

Research

- What is terra nullius and why do you think the British Government declared Australia to be terra nullius?
- What was the Mabo decision?
- What is native title?
- Why is native title important to First Nations peoples?
- How did the Meriam people challenge terra nullius?
- Mabo wasn't just fighting for the Meriam people. Why was Mabo an important case for First Nations peoples?
- Investigate Mer Island in more detail and create a profile of the island. Use the following questions to guide research:
 - Where is Mer Island?
 - Mer Island is also known as...
 - How big is the island?
 - Describe the landscape of the island.
 - What language do the people of Mer Island speak?

Further Investigation – Eddie Mabo

- Create a timeline of important events in Eddie Mabo's life.
- What are some of the key events in his life? Write a summary for one key event which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- Create a portrait of Eddie Mabo. Explore and experiment with different techniques and media to produce a portrait.
- Write a letter to Eddie Mabo thanking him for his achievements.

Useful Websites

- [Native Title](#) - BTN
- [Mabo Legacy](#) – BTN
- [Native Title](#) – Australian Museum
- [Mabo Decision](#) – National Museum of Australia



Teacher Resource

Torres Strait Islander Flag

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. Where are the Torres Strait Islands? Find on a map.
2. How many islands in the Torres Strait are inhabited?
3. When was the Torres Strait Islander flag created? Tell the story of how it was created using your own words.
4. What colours can be found on the Torres Strait Islander flag?
 - a. Green, blue, black, white
 - b. Red, yellow, black
 - c. Blue, white, red
5. What do the colours of the Torres Strait Islander flag represent?

This document contains the names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased. It also contains links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.

Activity: Class Discussion

Before watching the BTN Torres Strait Islander Flag story students will discuss in small groups what they already know about the Torres Strait Islander Flag.

Facilitate a class discussion using these discussion starters:

- What does the Torres Strait Islander flag look like? Describe the shapes and colours on the flag.
- What do the different shapes and colours represent?
- List some places where you would see the Torres Strait Islander flag.



EPISODE 15

2 June 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will identify elements, colours and symbols of the Torres Strait Islander flag and explain the meaning and significance of each element. Students will learn more about Torres Strait Islander people, their language, culture, and traditions.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3

The ways First Nations Australians in different parts of Australia are interconnected with Country/Place.

HASS – Year 3

The importance of Country/Place to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples who belong to a local area.

HASS – Year 3 and 4

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

HASS – Year 4

The diversity of First Nations Australians, their social organisation and their continuous connection to Country/Place.

HASS – Year 5 and 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

HASS – Year 6

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

Activity: Inquiry Research

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Torres Strait Islander Flag 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>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 of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- What is the history of the Torres Strait Islander flag? Who created it and when was it first flown?
- When was the Torres Strait Islander flag first recognised as a national flag? What are the official flags of Australia?
- What do the elements of the Torres Strait Islander flag represent? Explore the symbolism of the shapes and colours.

Activity: Understanding the Torres Strait Islander Flag

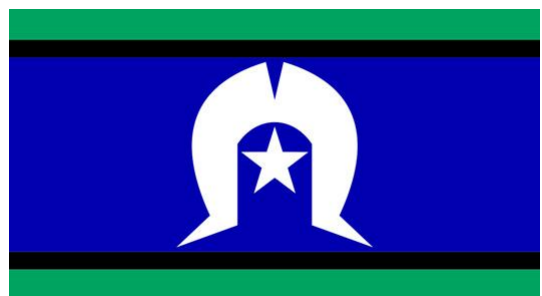
Students will identify elements, colours and symbols of the Torres Strait Islander flag and explain the meaning and significance of each element. Start this class activity by asking your students “what do you think flags represent” and “why do communities and nations have flags?”.

Students will use the following questions to guide their research:

- What is the story of the Torres Strait Islander flag?
Describe using your own words.
- Who designed the flag?
- When was the flag designed?

Research and answer these questions:

- The green stripes represent...
- The blue represents...
- The black stripes represent...
- What is the white symbol in the middle of the flag? It represents...
- What does the star symbolise?
- The colour white represents...
- The flag as a whole symbolises...



[Torres Strait Islander Flag](#) (Source: AIATSIS)

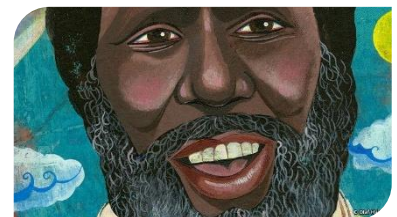
Activity: Language, Culture, and Traditions

After watching the BTN Torres Strait Islander Flag story students will learn more about Torres Strait Islander people, their language, culture, and traditions. Students will research and present on one of the following topics.

- **Torres Strait Islander Languages** – What are the traditional languages spoken in the Torres Strait? Learn more about the different dialects. Learn some everyday words for the two languages of the Torres Strait and Torres Strait Creole. [Torres Strait Islander Word Lists](#) (State Library QLD)
- **Seasonal Calendar** – What are some important animals in Torres Strait Islander culture? Learn more about the [Torres Strait Islander seasonal calendar](#) (QCAA), and the plants and animals that are important to Torres Strait Islander people.
- **Geography** – Where are the Torres Strait Islands? How many islands make up the Torres Strait? There are 5 geographically and cultural distinct main island groups. List the islands in each group and highlight on a map.
- **Totems** – In small groups students will explore animal totems which are important to Torres Strait Islanders. Watch this video about the [Importance of Dugongs for Torres Strait Islanders](#) (ABC Education). Why is this totem important to Torres Strait Islanders? How does this totem help you understand Torres Strait Islander people and culture?
- **Important People** – Who are some important Torres Strait Islander leaders, artists, and performers? Choose one to explore and learn about their life and achievements. Write a profile about them. Some important Torres Strait Islander people include Eddie Mabo, Christine Anu and Uncle Bernard Namok Snr.



- **Land Rights** – Watch this BTN [Mabo Day](#) story to learn about the story of Eddie Mabo. Write 2-3 paragraphs about what you learned, using one or more of the following sentence starters.
 - *Five words that I would use to describe Eddie Mabo are...*
 - *This story made me feel...*
 - *It is important to remember Eddie Mabo because...*




- **Deep Time** – Explore the ABC's Deep Time website to learn more about Torres Strait Islander people and culture. Go to the [Place map](#) on the Deep Time website and select one of the stories from the Torres Strait Islands. What does the story tell you about Torres Strait Islanders connection to animals, the land, water or sky?



BTN First Nations collection

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on First Nations.

Look for BTN stories with the pencil icon  to find supporting teacher resources all linked to the Australian Curriculum. [BTN – First Nations Collection](#)



Useful Websites

- [Torres Strait Flag Anniversary](#) – BTN Newsbreak
- [Flag Day](#) – BTN
- [Torres Strait](#) – BTN
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags](#) – Australian Museum
- [Flags](#) – National Museum of Australia
- [Aboriginal Flag History](#) – BTN
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags](#) – Reconciliation Australia
- [The Torres Strait Flag](#) – Torres Strait Regional Authority
- [Torres Strait Islander flag](#) – AIATSIS



Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 15- 2/6/2026

Hey, I'm Amelia and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. We find out about a plan to keep kids safe online, learn about the history of this official Aussie flag and meet a young pilot who's completed a record flight.

Diphtheria

Reporter: Tatenda Chibika

INTRO: But first, we're going to find out about a disease which has had Aussie authorities worried lately. It's called diphtheria. While it's rare today, it used to be one of the most feared childhood diseases. Here's Tatenda to tell you more.

PSA: Every year, 3000 children die like this from diphtheria.

TATENDA, REPORTER: This was a film that once played in movie theatres warning people about a dangerous disease that affected thousands of children.

PSA: Stop needless death.

TATENDA, REPORTER: Diphtheria is a contagious disease caused by toxin-producing bacteria.

It can infect the nose, throat, airways, or skin. The disease was first described in 4th or 5th century BCE by Greek Physician and philosopher Hippocrates also known as the Father of Medicine and in the 1800s, it was given the name diphtheria which translates to leather in Greek because that's kind of what it looked like in the throat.

In the 1890s, there was a breakthrough. Scientists Kitasato Shibasaburō and Emil von Behring developed 'Serum Therapy'. It involved injecting animals with diphtheria toxins to produce antibodies which are proteins made by the immune system to fight off disease. They found that by giving those antibodies to other animals and eventually humans, they could stop them from getting sick. The discovery won Emil Von Behring the first Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1901 and in 1923, a French researcher found a way to make a safer diphtheria vaccine and countries around the world pushed to protect their populations.

PSA: This is called immunisation

And it worked.

PERSON: This lady, she's worried about her daughter.

This graph shows just how much diphtheria cases have fallen since the vaccine became widespread. Today, most Australians get vaccinated when they're little. In fact, 93 per cent of five-year-olds have had all of their recommended doses of the diphtheria vaccine. 11- to 13-year-olds can also get a booster shot through school programs. But there are still gaps and recently we've seen an outbreak of diphtheria.

More than 230 people have tested positive for the disease in parts of Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Many of those cases are adults living in Indigenous communities where authorities say there can be barriers to accessing vaccines.

MALARNDIRRI MCCARTHY, MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS: We know that we've got over a hundred aboriginal languages, we need to ensure that the communication is there, not misinformation we certainly saw that through COVID, and we need to make sure that the right information is getting out to our remote and regional communities.

There are also worries that that misinformation is leading to a drop in vaccination rates right around the world for all sorts of diseases that could make a comeback.

MARK BUTLER, MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGED CARE: Some of these diseases, which we thought had been largely consigned to the dustbin of history, like diphtheria, like measles, are showing a re-emergence, not just here in Australia but in a number of other countries where particularly childhood immunisation rates are dropping.

In the last few weeks, more than 10,000 people in the NT alone have had a diphtheria vaccine. Authorities say the outbreak isn't over yet, but the number of new cases has gone down and hopefully soon, diphtheria will once again be a thing of the past.

News Quiz

The Australian government is suing the company which made firefighting foam which contained chemicals that have contaminated 28 Defence bases around Australia. Do you know what those chemicals are known as? BPA, PFAS or microplastics? They're known as PFAS which stands for polyfluoroalkyl substances. They're also known as "forever chemicals" because they don't degrade and they've been linked to health problems. The government is using the 3M Australia for 2 billion dollars, saying it wasn't totally honest about the environmental risks posed by PFAS.

NASA's announced the next steps for its Moon base plans that'll see humans living on the moon by 2032. How much is it expected to cost? \$10 billion, \$20 billion or \$30 billion? It'll cost about \$20 billion. NASA has revealed its plan, phase 1, involves sending up equipment and vehicles to explore and map the terrain, including landers from private space companies. Phase 2 will see the base being built and then phase 3 will see astronauts living and working on the moon.

Speaking of space, who is this? It's Katherine Bennell-Pegg, Australian of the Year and Australia's first female astronaut. She's just received a pretty amazing invitation from the European Space Agency, to go to the International Space Station. But it's not a sure thing yet, her place depends on funding from the Aussie government and private sources.

What's the record for the most amount of people to climb Mt Everest in a single day? Is it 27, 172 or 274? It's 274 climbers in one day. That's a record number that made it to the top of the highest mountain in the world last week. But some locals and climbers reckon that's a few too many because you get lines like this which can be dangerous in such intense conditions.

NATHANIEL DOUGLAS, EVEREST CLIMBER FROM SEATTLE, USA: I run into a lot of people who have never climbed a single mountain, but they really want to go climb Everest.

Check out this drone show at Vivid Sydney festival. But what happened next? Did they form an image of a face, did they all start flashing or did they start falling out of the sky? They fell out of the sky. The drone show's operator says a change in radio frequency caused 89 drones to fall into the harbour around Cockle Bay and all shows afterwards were cancelled.

Children's Online Privacy Code

Reporter: Sharne Wakefield

INTRO: Now, to your online privacy. Right now, the Australian government is collecting feedback on a new set of rules designed to limit the amount of information that companies can collect, store and share about kids online. Sharne found out why that's important.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Ooh, what-cha watching? Oh classic. I know something you'll really love.

GIRL: Wait. Hang on. Who are you?

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: I'm your digital footprint. Don't worry I know all about you.

SHARNE WAKEFIELD, REPORTER: If you've ever been online, you too have a digital footprint. It's a term used to describe the trail of information that we leave behind when we search, play, send and watch stuff, and they can be a bit of a problem.

GIRL: How do you know all this stuff?

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Oh, ya know. I have my methods.

Yeah. There are a few ways you feed your footprint. The first is through the things that you deliberately share, whether it's stuff you make, or things you think.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Hey. Remember when you said that mean thing about Sally? I wonder if she ever saw it.

GIRL: Wait no. That was years ago.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Oh, and this photo. Wow. How embarrassing. What if your future boss saw this?

There's also information that you put online when you play games, sign up for things or buy stuff. That information can be saved or even sold to other businesses, which can use it for all sorts of things, whether its research or creating ads specifically designed for you.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Hey, I reckon you should buy this jacket. I know you've been looking at it for ages and it's on sale. I'll just need your credit card.

GIRL: No.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Oh, that's right, I've already got it.

There's also a risk of that info ending up in the hands of criminals, which can put you in danger.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Hey guess what? I just sold your phone number for fifty bucks. Nice.

Your digital footprint can also grow without you doing anything, with the use of cookies

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Want one? C'mon.

Not real cookies. They're files used to collect information on people's online browsing habits. Some platforms even track where you are using the GPS features on your phone, tablet or computer.

TAMA LEAVER, RESEARCHER AT CURTIN UNIVERSITY: Because all of the bits and pieces that we leave behind as we do things online, add up to quite a big and complicated story of who we are and what we do.

Experts say by the time you turn 13, there could be up to 72 million bits of information about you available online.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: That's a lot.

And some reckon it's putting young people at risk.

TAMA LEAVER, RESEARCHER AT CURTIN UNIVERSITY: We've learned the hard way that we probably can't trust all online companies to have the best interests of children at heart.

It's why the government is currently working on a Children's Online Privacy Code. It's a set of rules online platforms will have to follow and when it comes into effect it will be the biggest change to Australia's privacy laws since the internet became a thing. The draft code includes 14 rules, including like the right to delete. Which will mean platforms have to delete your information if you ask them to. Platforms will also have to let you know when your location can be seen by others. Oh, and you know those long 'terms and conditions'?

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Oh, you never read those.

GIRL: Yeah, you're right. I don't.

Yeah, well the government wants them to be simpler, so you actually know what you are agreeing to and they want to stop platforms from being sneaky and hiding buttons that give you the choice to say 'no'. But, before the official code is released in December, the government's been asking young Aussies to give feedback and ideas on the proposed rules.

STUDENT 1: I think they should contact all the social media and ask them to maybe keep it more safe and stuff.

STUDENT 2: I think that everyone should value their privacy because you don't know where it's going to go.

It's hoped the code will help you stay safe online, by giving you more control over your digital footprint.

GIRL: You know what, I'm sick of you.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT: Wait, wait, wait. C'mon, you don't have to do that. Fine.

GIRL: Delete.

Quiz

What's the name given to a cyberattack where criminals try to trick you into giving up personal information by pretending to be a trusted person, business or organisation? Is it a DDoS attack, phishing or a Trojan horse? It's known as phishing.

Native Title

Reporter: Saskia Mortarotti

INTRO: Wednesday, June 3rd is Mabo Day. It marks the anniversary of the Australian High Court's landmark Mabo decision, which paved the way for native title. Sas found out what that means and the impact it's still having today.

SASKIA MORTAROTTI, BTN REPORTER: This is Western Australia's Pilbara region, and this is the home of the Yindjibarndi people. For tens of thousands of years, it's where they've lived and practiced their culture. It's also recognised by Australian law as their land. Back in 2017, the Yindjibarndi people were granted native title.

JANE CHEEDY, YINDJIBARNDI ELDER: It was always ours, but it had to be proved and today was the day that it happened.

Native title is official recognition of a First Nation's pre-existing right to land and waters according to their traditional law and customs. They can live there, camp there, hunt, fish, host ceremonies, and protect sites from damage. If damage is done, they can take action, which is what the Yindjibarndi people did. They recently won a big court case against a company that's been mining on Yindjibarndi land since 2013. Even though that was before the native title was officially recognised, the court found that their rights to the land had existed before that, and the mining company was forced to pay more than 150 million dollars in compensation.

JANE CHEEDY, YINDJIBARNDI ELDER: That makes me emotional talking about it

MICHAEL WOODLEY, YINDJIBARNDI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION: We've been fighting all our lives, right, I think the recognition needs to stand firm that this is our country.

This sort of decision was made possible because of a court decision that was handed down in the 90s. *Mabo V Queensland no.2 (1992)* is seen as one of the most important legal cases in Australian history. It overturned a legal myth known as *terra nullius*. That means nobody's land in Latin and was the justification British colonisers used to claim Australia as their own. Obviously, there were people here long before the British arrived, but they didn't recognise First Nations customs, laws, and systems of government, and despite years of fighting by First Nations people for their rights and their land, the myth of *terra nullius* remained. It was in the 80s that a Meriam man called Eddie Koike Mabo began his fight to change that. He'd been working as a gardener at James Cook University when he learned that his people didn't actually own the land they'd lived on for thousands of years. So, he, along with his wife Bonita and some fellow Torres Strait Islanders, took their case to the highest court in Australia, and they won.

GEORGE MYE, COMMISSIONER, ABORIGINAL SPOKESPERSON: Torres Strait Islanders Australia wide, particularly the Murray Islanders are really thrilled with the outcome of the High Court.

Sadly, Eddie died before the decision was made.

MALETA WEST, DAUGHTER OF EDDIE MABO: He'd be excited. I can't see him talking; I can see him dancing.

However, his actions had a lasting impact. The Mabo case led to the passing of the Native Title Act 1993, and since then, more than 500 successful native title claims have been made across Australia. But claiming native title isn't easy. Traditional Owners have to prove they have had a continuous and unbroken connection to their country. Native title can't be claimed on privately owned land or places where the government has built schools, roads, or other buildings. It can also be a slow process, and some say it doesn't do enough to recognise traditional ownership or protect traditional lands. But, to many, it's still an important recognition that the land always has been and always will be theirs.

Torres Strait Islander Flag

Reporter: Tatenda Chibika

INTRO: Now to another Australian anniversary that we recently marked. It was Torres Strait Islander Flag Day, the date when this flag was officially presented to the public. Tatenda found out more about the flag and how it came to be the symbol of the Torres Strait Islander people.

We see it flying outside our schools, sport games, and government buildings.

TATENDA, REPORTER: And even where we work.

But how much do you actually know about the Torres Strait Islander flag? Before we get to that, let's look at the Torres Strait itself. The Torres Strait is a stretch of water between Australia and Papua New Guinea, and more than 270 small islands and reefs are scattered in this area. Although only 17 of them are inhabited. Torres Strait Islander people are related to the Melanesian people of Papua New Guinea but for thousands of years, they've practiced their own cultures and languages.

BERNARD NAMOK JR: The clothing is a lot of influence from neighbouring islands, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific. So, yeah, we've accepted and kind of like adapted to different cultures and kind of like are living in harmony, I guess you would say, up here.

That's Bernard Jr. He is from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and it was his father, Bernard Snr, who designed the Torres Strait Islander flag.

BERNARD NAMOK JR: Back in 1992, there was a competition on the island, there was a call from the Torres Strait Island Council back then to they put a call out for a competition for artists up in the region to do a sketch to come up with a design to best represent our people.

BERNARD NAMOK JR: So, I have a strong memory. I was about 8, 8 years old and my dad used to do all them sketches.

On May 29, 1992, Bernard Sr's flag was officially unveiled.

BERNARD NAMOK JR: All the islanders came in from the other islands, and they gathered here on Thursday Island 34 years ago. And then the MC told everybody to kind of look left and we heard like a helicopter, the sound of a helicopter that was flying towards the oval and the helicopter carried the Torres Strait flag and that was the first time that the community and the people got to see the Torres Strait flag .

Two years later, it became an official flag of Australia representing the unique important place of Torres Strait islanders in Australia's culture and history. So, let's have a closer look. The green represents the land. The blue represents the waters of the Torres Strait, and the black lines represent the people. In the middle, there is a Dhari which is a traditional headdress.

BERNARD NAMOK JR: They use their Dhari in ceremony events, cultural events, and dance. So, it is a significant symbol for Torres Strait Islanders.

And then there's the five-pointed star, representing the five distinct cultural groups of the Torres Strait.

BERNARD NAMOK JR: A lot of our ancestors were brought up navigating the waters by looking at the stars because back in the day, they didn't have any compass to navigate the islands.

Bernard Jr says the flag is an important symbol of unity and pride for Torres Strait Islander people. That's why he co-wrote a kids book to teach the next generation about its story

BERNARD NAMOK JR: I think people want to know about the history and colours and I thought a children's book would be a nice way, a picture book. I'm really proud that there's a flag that represents us, Torres Strait Islanders. And also, I'm proud that I've sat there and watched the flag being created at our dinner table. And it's just a proud moment for everyone.

Did You Know?

Did you know the Torres Strait Islands used to be part of a land-bridge that connected Australia to New Guinea? It meant that up until 8 to 10 thousand years ago people could walk between the two.

Sport

Paris Saint-Germain have won the Champions League for the second time in row. The final score was settled in a penalty shootout, but it was PSG who held their nerve winning 4 to 3.

PERSON: Gabriel firing into the Budapest sky.

With the FIFA World Cup around the corner the Socceroos have just named their squad. 17 of the 26 will be making their very first World Cup debut. Coach Tony Popovic has also picked 2 players who have never played an international game before. Winger Cristian Volpato was recently rushed into the squad after switching his allegiance to Australia instead of Italy. While Striker Tete Yengi made the team after a strong season in Japan.

It was a historic win for the Blues in the Women's State of Origin.

PERSON: The 2026 Women's State of Origin series ends with a blue wash.

They claimed the shield in a 12 to 4 win on the Gold Coast. Giving them a clean sweep for the first time ever in the women's series history.

ISABELLE KELLY, BLUES CAPTAIN: We knew we had to do it, we knew we had to do it with our defence, we knew the points would come.

Meanwhile in the men's. The Blues have taken out game one 22 to 20 after one of the biggest comebacks in the State of Origin's history. At the end of the first half, they were down 20 to zero. But after Queensland's fullback Kayln Ponga was sent off for a shoulder charge things turned around. In the last 90 seconds James Tedesco even the scoreboard.

PERSON: His pressure, he's scored.

Before Nathan Cleary's conversion to seal the win.

Young Pilot

Reporter: Kushi Venkatesh

INTRO: Finally, today let's meet a young pilot who's just finished a pretty incredible adventure. While most 17-year-olds are focusing on getting their drivers licence Rose has been flying solo around Australia. Kushi caught up with her to find out how it went.

KUSHI VENKATESH, BTN REPORTER: Rose, how are you going? Welcome to BTN.

ROSE DONALD, YOUNG PILOT: Thank you so much. I'm going really well.

KUSHI: So, I hear you've broken a bit of a record. Can you tell me what you've been up to?

ROSE: So, I've actually got my private pilot's license, which allows me to fly an airplane recreationally on navigation flights. So, I took advantage of that recently, and I flew myself solo around the coastline of Australia. I've actually broken the record for the youngest female pilot to fly solo around Australia in a general aviation aircraft.

ROSE, FLYING: Here I've just been dodging the cloud a little bit, but it's ok.

KUSHI: What made you want to take on this challenge?

ROSE: It was actually because I wanted to become a professional pilot, and to get your commercial license is quite expensive because you need to do 100 solo hours. So, across this trip, I got a whole bunch of sponsorship from my amazing sponsors. You'll see them on the side of the plane. I've got stickers for each of them, and they help me pay for my costs to go around the country. So, I've now gotten all those solo hours, and it's put me in a really good position to pursue my career in aviation, which is really exciting. As well as that, I've partnered with a children's charity called Little Wings, and they provide free ongoing air and ground transport for seriously ill kids in rural Australia. So, they'll fly them or drive them to and from the hospital just to make sure there's not so much strain on their parents, and making sure that, whether they live in the city or in the country, they still have the same access to healthcare. We managed to raise about \$80,000 for Little Wings and for those families, which is really cool. So, even though it started out as being a career building exercise for me, it's really turned into something bigger, and it's really, really sweet what we've managed to achieve.

KUSHI: So, 40 days is like a long time on your own.

ROSE: Today's track is Tamworth to Archfield, probably about two and a half to three hours.

KUSHI: Like solo and you're 17. How do you pass the time?

ROSE: I have Bluetooth on my headset. So, my dad would call me and talk about the weather. My mum would call me and tell me about something silly our dog had done that week.

KUSHI: How did you get into flying?

ROSE: So, my dad has his private licence as well. So, when I was 13, I actually looked it up, and you could actually start your training at 13 and 9 months and I went and talked to my dad about it because I knew he was into it, and he was so, so excited.

KUSHI: Do you have any advice for any young people who might have some big dreams like yourself?

ROSE: It's cliché, but I would say just keep persisting. Keep going at your goal. Like the process of achieving your goal isn't supposed to be easy a lot of the time. So, I'd say just keeping your end goal clear in your head, and even though the process is going to absolutely suck sometimes, yeah, like it'll be way worth it at the end.

Closer

Amazing work. That's all we have for today, but we'll be back before you know it. In the meantime, you can check out more stories and quizzes and all sorts of other stuff on our website. And, of course, you can keep up to date with Newsbreak every weeknight. Have an awesome week and I'll see you soon. Bye.