



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.

Federal Budget

1. What is the Federal Budget? In pairs, come up with a definition.
2. Who is Australia's Federal Treasurer?
3. What world events has impacted the cost of living?
4. Name one thing that this year's budget will focus on.
5. Name three facts you learnt watching the BTN story.

Royal Commission

1. Discuss the BTN story as a class. What points were raised in the discussion?
2. What is a royal commission?
3. Give an example of a decision made as result of a royal commission.
4. Why is it important for a royal commission to be independent?
5. What questions do you have about the BTN story?

Sugar Tax

1. What was the main point of the Sugar Tax story?
2. According to the Australian Medical Association, how many litres of sugary drinks do Australians drink every year?
 - a. 400 million
 - b. 1.4 million
 - c. 2.4 billion
3. What sort of health problems does a high sugar diet contribute to?
4. The AMA is proposing a tax of _____ cents for every 100 grams of sugar in a drink.
5. Do you think there should be a tax on sugary drinks? Explain your answer.

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

EPISODE 12

12 May 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.

Platypus

1. What are some unique features of the platypus?
2. Platypuses are monotremes. What does that mean?
3. Scientists originally thought the platypus was a fake. True or false?
4. What are some threats to platypuses?
5. Why are some scientists in New South Wales trying to change the protection status of the platypus?

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

Bahá'í Kids

1. What is one of the main beliefs of the Bahá'í faith?
2. When and where was the Bahá'í faith founded?
3. According to Skysha, what is the main purpose of Baha'u'llah's message?
4. How do they celebrate the festival Ridvan?
5. What did you learn watching the BTN story?



Teacher Resource

Sugar Tax

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 was the main point of the Sugar Tax story?
2. According to the Australian Medical Association, how many litres of sugary drinks do Australians drink every year?
 - a. 400 million
 - b. 1.4 million
 - c. 2.4 billion
3. What sort of health problems does a high sugar diet contribute to?
4. The AMA is proposing a tax of _____ cents for every 100 grams of sugar in a drink.
5. Do you think there should be a tax on sugary drinks? Explain your answer.

Activity: Comprehension

After watching the BTN Sugar Tax story students answer the following comprehension questions:

- 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 and/or describe?



Activity: Pros and Cons

As a class brainstorm and record the pros and cons of introducing a sugary drinks tax in Australia. Use a t-chart to record student's responses. Students will weigh up the pros and cons of the issue and then write a short persuasive argument stating why there should or should not be a tax on sugary drinks.

EPISODE 12

12 May 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will calculate the amount of sugar in a variety of sugary drinks. Students will keep a diary of their sugary drink intake for a week.

CURRICULUM

Health and PE – Years 3 & 4

Identify and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing.

Discuss and interpret health information and messages in the media and internet.

Health and PE – Years 5 & 6

Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing.

Health and PE – Years 7 & 8

Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing.

Evaluate health information and communicate their own and others' health concern.

Plan and use health practices, behaviours and resources to enhance health, safety and wellbeing of their communities.

Mathematics – Year 6

Interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs for two categorical variables.

Activity: How much sugar is in my drink?

Show your students a range of sugary drinks (you may want to show images or real drink containers). Some popular drinks include fruit drink, juice, sports drinks, cordial and soft drink.

Discussion questions

- Which of these drinks do you think contains the most sugar?
- Which drinks do you think are the healthiest options?
- How often do you drink sugary drinks?
- How can too much sugar affect our health?

Predict and estimate

Students will predict which drink has the most sugar (from most to least). Estimate how much sugar (in teaspoons) is in each drink.

Analyse and calculate

Students will record the sugar content for each drink. They will convert grams of sugar into teaspoons using this formula: $Number\ of\ teaspoons = grams\ of\ sugar / 4$

In small groups students will:

- Find the 'Nutrition Information' label on a bottle
- Look for the information about the sugar content
- Analyse how many grams of sugar are in 100mls and per serving (a can or bottle)
- Convert the number of grams into teaspoons (1 teaspoon = 4 grams). Make your calculations using this formula: $Number\ of\ teaspoons = grams\ of\ sugar / 4$
- Using real sugar measure the teaspoons of sugar into a cup to visualise how much is in the drink.

Drink name	Serving size (ml)	Sugar per serve (grams)	Sugar per serve (teaspoons)	Sugar per 100ml (grams)	Sugar per 100ml (tsp)

Evaluate

- Present your findings in a bar graph.
- Which drink has the most sugar per 100mls?
- Did anything surprise you? Explain.
- Compare your calculations to your earlier predictions and estimates.
- Design a poster which shows your findings. Put up your poster around your school.

Activity: Sugary drink intake

Students will keep a diary of their sugary drink intake for a week. Begin by asking students to think about drinks that may contain sugar (fruit juice, fizzy drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, iced tea, flavoured milk, smoothies, slushies, flavoured water). Collect some empty bottles of sugary drinks and look at the nutrition information on the packaging. Ask students to look at the list of ingredients and identify the sugars. Explain they will be recording their sugary drink intake for a week including the grams of sugar in each drink they consume.

Day	Drink/s	Total grams of sugar
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
	Total	

After completing the activity students will respond to the following:

- What is your daily sugar intake (from sugary drinks)?
- Do you think sugar is a huge part of your diet? Explain.
- What was surprising about the results?
- How could you reduce your sugary drink intake? What are some healthier alternatives?

Choose a project

- **Campaign** – Educate kids about how much sugar is in some drinks and the effects of sugary drinks on the body. Your campaign will focus on encouraging kids to drink more water. Think of some fun water related games to include in your campaign (bottle flip competition, sponge relay races or water balloon spoon race). Or design a campaign to save kids teeth and their money by promoting alternatives to sugary drinks like – water flavoured with strawberries, mint or lemon slices; or milk blended with frozen fruit.
- **Is juicing good for you?** – Compare the sugar content in a glass of orange juice and an orange. Experiment in the classroom. How many oranges are used to make a glass of juice? Analyse the results and make recommendations.
- **Classroom experiment** – What impact do different drinks have on your teeth? Conduct this [fun and simple experiment](#) in your classroom with water, juice, cola and eggshells.


Activity: Public opinion

Students will interview a range of people to find out the different opinions and feelings people have towards a sugary drinks tax. Students will use the following as a guide during the interview process:

- Determine 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'.
- Ask if they think a tax on sugary drinks is a good idea and ask them to explain their answer.
- Think about ways to record peoples' responses, written, audio or video.

Do you think there should be a tax on sugary drinks? Why or why not?

BTN Financial Literacy collection

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on Financial Literacy. Look for BTN stories with the pencil icon  to find supporting teacher resources all linked to the Australian Curriculum.

[BTN – Financial Literacy Collection](#)



BTN Newsbreak

BTN Newsbreak keeps kids up to date each weekday, even through school term breaks. Join Nat each evening for a wrap of what's been happening in the world. [BTN – Newsbreak stories](#)



Useful Websites

- [Sugar Tax](#) – BTN Newsbreak
- [Sugar tax needed tackle Australia's worsening obesity crisis](#) – AMA
- [Effects of sugar on our health](#) – ABC Education
- [Sugar](#) – Better Health



Teacher Resource

Platypus

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 are some unique features of the platypus?
2. Platypuses are monotremes. What does that mean?
3. Scientists originally thought the platypus was a fake. True or false?
4. What are some threats to platypuses?
5. Why are some scientists in New South Wales trying to change the protection status of the platypus?

Activity: Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Platypus story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Activity: Class Discussion

Create a class mind map with PLATYPUS in the middle. Ask students to record what they know about the species. In small groups, ask students to brainstorm responses to the following questions:

- What do you know about platypuses?
- Why is it important to protect the species?
- What is the conservation status of platypuses? Is it the same in every state?
- What makes the platypus unique?
- What questions do you have about platypuses?



EPISODE 12
12 May 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of platypuses and create a profile.

CURRICULUM

Science – Year 5

Examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats.

Science – Year 6

Investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions.

Activity: Key Words

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

THREATENED SPECIES	MAMMAL	MONOTREME
BURROW	VENOMOUS	ELECTRORECEPTORS

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: Platypus profile

Students will research and write a profile featuring the platypus. Encourage students to use a range of sources to find their information.

Research

Students will research the following and then share their research findings with the class or create a display in the classroom.

- Illustration or photo
- Name (common and scientific name)
- Conservation status – What is being done to protect the species?
- Appearance
- Adaptations
- Habitat
- Threats
- Unique features



Further Investigation

Students will respond to one or more of the following questions.

- How do platypuses use electroreceptors in their bills to detect prey? Why is it necessary for hunting?
- How does the platypus's venom work?
- Why do platypuses glow under UV light?
- Investigate why scientists originally thought the platypus was a fake.

Activity: Platypus Dreaming Story

Students will explore Indigenous people's connection to the platypus through Dreaming Stories. [Listen to Biladurang](#) - the Dreaming Story of how First Nations people believe the platypus got its features. Ask students to retell the story in their own words.



Useful Websites

- [Platypus Protection](#) – BTN
- [Platypus Return](#) – BTN
- [Platypus](#) – Australian Museum
- [What is a monotreme?](#) – Australian Museum
- [The platypus: a unique and vulnerable Australian](#) – Museums Victoria
- [Our animals: Lives of platypuses](#) – ABC Education



Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 12- 12/5/2026

Hey, I'm Amelia Moseley and you're watching BTN. Thanks for hanging out with us again. Let's see what we've got in store for you on today's show. We find out why Aussie doctors want to make fizzy drinks more expensive, learn more about Australia's most mysterious monotreme and meet some kids who tell us about the celebration of Ridván.

Federal Budget

Reporter: Aiden McNamara

INTRO: We'll get to all that soon, but first today to Australia's new budget. Every year the government delivers its plan for how it's going to spend the country's money and this year it's hoping to use it to tackle some big problems. Aiden can tell you more.

AIDEN MCNAMARA, REPORTER: The world is changed. Economic and political threats loom over the land. Oil unable to traverse certain waters as ours burns.

CHRIS BOWEN, ENERGY MINISTER: Look this is not a positive development.

The cost to sustain us grows.... but out of darkness comes a treasurer, wielding a weapon with the power to change our fate... maybe... a little bit at least.

ADVENTURER 1: The 2026-27 Federal Budget.

Yeah, look. budgets might not be quite this intense. But they're still a big deal. The budget is a document that comes out every year explaining how the government plans to spend the country's money.

ADVENTURER 2: Is that it?

Yes. And it's very important. See, what the government spends money on effects all of us, just about every working Australian pays tax. And that's used to pay for stuff like medicine, infrastructure, caring for the elderly, and defence-y things. The government has to weigh up what everyone wants, and needs, and crunch the numbers in a way that keeps as many people as happy as possible without sending the country completely broke. It's always a bit of a battle and this year there are some extra challenges.

ADVENTURER 3: What was that?

ADVENTURER 2: It's inflation.

JIM CHALMERS, TREASURER: Inflation is the dragon we need to slay.

Thanks 2022 Jim Chalmers. The treasurer is still trying to slay inflation dragons, thanks to the war in Iran and the oil crisis. It's caused prices around the world to go up not just fuel but all sorts of things. And it's having a big impact on Australians. In this budget there's a lot of pressure on the treasurer to help Australians with the rising cost of living, without increasing inflation by spending too much. He's also trying to avoid another major economic peril.

ADVENTURER 3: What's that's big scary looking over there in the distance?

ADVENTURER 1: It's a recession. Don't look at it.

A recession is when people stop spending because of all those cost-of-living pressures and the economy shrinks. The UN's International Monetary Fund has warned there could be a global recession coming because of the war in Iran.

JIM CHALMERS: We also need to make sure that we have room to respond should some of these serious and more severe scenarios published by the IMF play out.

ADVENTURER 3: What was that?

ADVENTURER 1: The generational wealth divide.

ADVENTURER 3: The what?

ADVENTURER 2: It's tearing apart the fabric of Australian society.

ADVENTURER 1: You shall not keep the full capital gains discount.

Yeah, one of the big things the government says it's going to tackle in this budget is what many see as a growing wealth gap between older and younger Australians.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: The truth is that young people say they're not getting a fair crack at the moment.

The PM says he wants to use the budget to change by making it easier for young people to buy a home and make tax rules fairer. Although what counts as fair is up for debate.

TIM WILSON, SHADOW TREASURER: What they're trying to do is start intergenerational war between the young and the old.

ADVENTURER 3: What now?

ADVENTURER 2: It's the voters.

ADVENTURER 1: Are the happy?

ADVENTURER 3: I don't know.

It'll be a little while before we know how the country feels about this plan and what effect it will have on the country. And while there'll be winners and losers, as there are in every budget, the government hopes his one will be powerful enough to keep them power.

ADVENTURER 2: It's over, it's finally over.

ADVENTURER 1: For this year.

News Quiz

David Farley has won the federal seat of Farrer after a by-election on the weekend. What party does he belong to? Is it the National Party, The Greens or One Nation? He's a member of One Nation. His seat used to be held by Sussan Ley, who quite politics after losing the Liberal leadership.

Which of these paintings won this year's Archibald prize? Was it this portrait of actor Jacob Collins. This one of Pitjantjatjara artist and healer, Iluwanti Ken or this one of the Governor General, Sam Mostyn? It was Richard Lewer's painting of Iluwanti Ken that took out the famous portrait prize.

RICHARD LEWER, ARTIST: Even though she's quite small in stature, she's a massive personality.

The Packing Room Prize, which is chosen by people who unpack the portraits, went to this painting by Sean Leyh.

Can you name this public place which will be hosting World Cup watch parties in June. Is it Commonwealth Place, Federation Square or Victoria Arcade? It's Federation Square, in Melbourne, where lives sports matches are often screened, including, famously, the Matilda's games at Australia's Women's World Cup. But because of some bad behaviour by fans in the past, the Melbourne Arts Precinct announced last Thursday that it wouldn't be screening this year's World Cup. That prompted a lot of criticism and by the end of the day the decision was reversed.

Farmers in Western Australia have been dealing with a plague of what? Locusts, rabbits or mice? It's a mouse plague and it's having a huge impact on crops in the state's wheatbelt.

And can you name the British Broadcaster who turned 100 last week?

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH: There's one ape, however, that spends nearly all it's time on the ground.

It's Sir David Attenborough. His birthday was marked with a special concert at Albert Hall in London, a week of special programming on the BBC, and a letter from a famous fan delivered in true Attenborough style.

KING CHARLES: And behalf of the whole nation, I wish you a very happy 100th birthday.

Oh, and a Chilean Parasitic wasp that was named after him. What a nice birthday present.

Royal Commission

Reporter: Sharne Wakefield

INTRO: Right now, there's a royal commission going on that's looking into the way Jewish people are treated in Australia. It was called after last year's terrorist attack at a Hannukah event in Bondi. But what is a Royal Commission? Sharne found out.

SHARNE WAKEFIELD, REPORTER: The year was 1901. Australian had just become a federation. And the new nation, needed a capital. The Prime Minister Edmund Barton wanted a site that would be...

VOICE OVER: A master of its own house and would provide beauty of position and construction and sanitary purity.

So, he called for a royal commission. A royal commission is a big, public investigation. It looks into an issue that affects many Australians. This one looked into several potential sites for the new capital... obviously we didn't go with any of them. But, in the years since, royal commissions have helped Australian state and federal governments make some of their biggest decisions and tackle some of their most serious issues. From the introduction of television to the impacts of nuclear testing.

Royal commissions work a little bit like a court. The person in charge is a commissioner, they're either a legal expert or judge, and they're chosen by the govern-general who represents the crown that's where the 'royal' bit comes in. But they are independent. So, no member of the government or the police are involved.

VOICE OVER: The meeting began in a state of mild confusion.

Just like a court, they can force people to hand over documents or give witness testimony.

COURT OFFICIAL: Before this commission shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Which they use to work out their final recommendations.

Unlike a court, they can't actually punish anyone or force the government to adopt any of their recommendations. But because it's public there is often a lot of pressure on leaders to make changes. Royal Commissions are expensive; they can cost millions of dollars and take several years. Which is one of the reasons why they don't happen very often and why they are big news when they do.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: Today I announce, that a royal commission into antisemitism and social cohesion be established.

Right now there is a royal commission going on which is looking into the way Jewish people are treated in Australia, the causes of hatred towards religious groups and what may have led to the terror attack which killed 15 people last December at a Hanukkah event. Some people, including the families of victims said the government didn't do enough to prevent the attack. They pointed to a rise in attacks on Jewish people and institutions.

NEWSRADER: The owners of a Jewish restaurant firebombed allegedly ordered by Iran spoke of their horror.

DINA: My children go to school in concrete bollards, high security fences, security guards, volunteer security guards and often police.

Last week we heard from the first Jewish Australians to give testimony to the commission. They said they'd been targeted because of their identity.

SHEINA GUTNICK: I felt shocked, exposed and unsafe.

Some kids took the stand to describe how they have been bullied, sometimes with hate speech and symbols involving Nazis and the Holocaust.

WITNESS AAF: On basically every tree you could see, there were swastikas on them.

This royal commission is due to wrap up in December, which makes it much shorter than most royal commissions. Some say it's not nearly enough time to unpack such a big issue. While others question whether holding a royal commission was the right thing to do. But many are hoping it will lead to changes which will make Australia safer and unite people as we grieve one of our worst moments.

Quiz

Australia established a Royal Commission into television in 1953. When did we actually bring in TV? 1956, 1958 or 1960? TV was first broadcast in Australia in 1956.

Sugar Tax

Reporter: Tatenda Chibika

INTRO: Now, should you pay more for your favourite sugary drink? Well, the Australian Medical Association thinks you should. It's called for a tax on sugary drinks to try to encourage people to make healthier choices something that's already been done in some other countries. Tatenda looked into it.

CONSCIENCE VOICEOVER: Do you really want that?

TATENDA CHIBIKA, REPORTER: That sweet sugary beverage, yeah?

CONSCIENCE VOICEOVER: Do you know excessive sugar consumption is actually quite bad for you? It can contribute to a lot of health issues like... oh well, go on then, fine, if that's what you really want, take a swig. Honestly, what's the point of even having a conscience if you're not gonna listen?

TATENDA: Alright, a lot of us enjoy a can of soft drink from time to time but we know they're not that good for us.

CONSCIENCE VOICEOVER: Uh yes that's actually what I was about to say before I was rudely interrupt-

TATENDA: For example, a can of cola contains around 39 grams of sugar that's nearly 10 teaspoons and almost double the recommended sugar intake for kids.

But a lot of kids continue to drink them along with adults. According to the Australian Medical Association, Aussies drink about 2.4 billion litres of sugary drinks every year, which is enough to fill almost a thousand Olympic sized pools.

While sugar naturally occurs in all sorts of things like fruits, veggies and dairy, those things also have nutrients in them like fibre, minerals, protein and calcium. But the sugar in here doesn't have any of those nutritional benefits and according to health experts, too much of it can lead to some serious health problems like tooth decay, obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

It's why the AMA wants the government to make sugary drinks more expensive.

DR DANIELLE MCMULLEN, AMA PRESIDENT: The AMA is asking the government to put a small tax on sugary beverages, so things like soft drinks and energy drinks, to help Australians make healthier choices at the checkout, at the supermarket and encourage them to drink water instead.

The AMA is proposing a tax of 50 cents for every 100 grams of sugar in a drink and that would raise the price of a 375ml can of soft drink by about 20 cents. More than 100 countries already have a tax on sweetened drinks, including Mexico, France, Chile, Hungary, South Africa and the UK.

DR DANIELLE MCMULLEN, AMA PRESIDENT: It's so strange that Australia is so far behind the rest of the world on this. There's more than 130 other countries or parts of countries that already have a sugar tax. So, we're being left behind by the rest of the world and it's time to catch up.

Some argue it should be up to individuals to decide what's right for their health and that we should be educating people about healthy choices rather than charging them. But the AMA says it's not about telling people what to do, it's about stopping health issues before they happen.

DR DANIELLE MCMULLEN, AMA PRESIDENT: Let's keep people healthy to start with so that we've got fewer

people who need to be in our hospitals. Something like a sugar tax helps keep people healthier, reduces how many strokes and heart attacks we need to treat, how much diabetes we might need to treat, and then opens up those doors for other people who also need that health care.

And they reckon the tax will also push companies to put less sugar in their drinks. The sugar tax isn't actually a thing yet and we don't know if it ever will be. But, for now, we'll have to rely on our conscience to tell us to make healthy choices.

CONSCIENCE VOICEOVER: About time. Are you going to clean that? Tatenda? Tatenda?

Platypus

Reporter: Aiden McNamara

INTRO: It's one of Australia's most recognisable native species, but researchers in New South Wales reckon the platypus needs more protection. Here's Aiden to tell you about these unusual animals and the threats they're facing. Check it out.

AIDEN MCNAMARA, REPORTER: They come out at as the sun goes down, ready to hunt. They use electrical impulses to find their prey. The males use sharp stingers on their back heels to deliver a venomous blow. And they have these adorable little bills and cute little webbed feet. Man, I love 'em. I just wish I could see one.

Yeah, you'd be pretty lucky to spot one of these Aussie icons in the wild. They're notoriously shy, spend most of their time alone, sleeping or eating – you and me both buddy. The platypus is one of only two mammals in the world that can lay eggs, known as monotremes. And they're also notoriously weird looking. Sort of a combo between a duck and a beaver, which to some is pretty unbelievable.

In fact, eighteenth century scientists saw a drawing of one and it thought it was a hoax. Of course, now we believe in platypi, platypee? Err...plata... platypuses. Ah, that makes the most sense actually. In fact, we're quite fond of them, so much so that they've been legally protected for more than a hundred years. Along with most of our native flora and fauna to be fair.

This means you can't harm, take, keep or sell them, unless you've got a license. But that's not been enough to keep the platypus safe. Here in South Australia, platypus have been classed as endangered since the 1970s. In Victoria, they've been classed as vulnerable for the past five years.

Which is not quite as bad as being endangered but it does mean their numbers are down. Obviously, that's bad news, but it does mean platypuses in those states get extra protection. It's one reason why in New South Wales there have been calls to change the protection status of the platypus.

GILAD BINO, NSW PLATYPUS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE: We're seeing significant declines in some areas.

Gilad Bino is part of a team of researchers who say the platypus population in the state needs some help.

GILAD BINO: They have been impacted by the significant droughts and fire that have impacted our country recently.

On top of that, issues like land clearing, water pollution, and changes to how water flows have impacted our platypus friends for a while. He wants the platypus to be listed as a threatened species. But for that to happen, they'll need more proof. You see, for a species to be listed as threatened, they have to show the population has declined 30 per cent or more over three generations. But as we've already established, these guys are hard to find and hard to count.

GILAD BINO: Without good data, we're just not keeping our finger on the pulse of this amazing animal.

While researchers work hard on collecting the data, they're asking the rest of us to help...

CITIZEN SCIENCE AIDEN: Oh, there's one there!

by keeping our eyes peeled for platypuses.

CITIZEN SCIENCE AIDEN: Oh, it's just a stick.

If you do see one, they're hoping you can let this group know where and when, and help keep this quirky little creature safe.

Sport

The Penrith Panthers treated their mums with a huge win against the Canberra Raiders on the weekend. The Panthers pounced on the Raiders early on.

COMMENTATOR: Penrith at their devastating best after five minutes.

The Raiders didn't let it get away, though, with the two sides going tit for tat all match but one man proved the difference.

COMMENTATOR: Cleary will just ran at the back score.

Yep, with 5 conversions, 3 assists, and 1 try, it was Nathan Cleary who catapulted the Panthers to a 30 to 18 victory, and their ninth win of the season.

Meanwhile in New Zealand, Brisbane Roar faced Wellington Phoenix in the women's A-League semi-final. The Kiwis had the upper hand as Makala Woods punted this first-half goal...

COMMENTATOR: watch as Woods... up and over!

... held the pressure with some near misses

COMMENTATOR: agonisingly wide.

... and made the most of an extra time mistake by Brisbane to secure New Zealand's first-ever spot in an A-League grand final. They'll face Melbourne City in Melbourne on Saturday.

And back home seas of pink flooded streets around the country as tens of thousands took part in the Mother's Day Classic fun run on Sunday.

INTERVIEWER: What did you think about today?

CHILD PARTICIPANT: I really like all these drink stations.

Apart from drinks, the run is about raising money and awareness for cancer research while celebrating and remembering the special women in our lives.

PARTICIPANT: I am fortunate to have my mum but not everyone does so I think it's an important day to remember them.

Bahá'í Kids

Rookie Reporters

INTRO: Finally, to a religious holiday that you may not know much about. It's called Ridván and It's a 12-day event which celebrates the beginning of the Bahai religion. We talked to some kids about what being Bahai is all about and what it means to them

TARAZ: Hi, I'm Taraz.

SKYSHA: Hi, I'm Skysha.

CLARA: Hi, I'm Clara.

NIKOLAI: Hi, I'm Nikolai.

TOGETHER: And we are Bahai's.

CLARA: The Baha'i faith is pretty much where all of us just believe in one God and we just like, we accept everybody.

TARAZ: One of the quotes from the Baha'i faith is, the world is but one country, and mankind its citizens.

NIKOLAI: Baha'is believe that Baha'u'llah brought the Baha'i faith.

TARAZ: Baha'u'llah is the founder of the Baha'i faith from the 1800s in Persia, which we all know as Iran.

SKYSHA: Baha'u'llah is one of the messengers of God. He is sent from God to make sure all the world has peace and love in it, and he's making sure that no one steals, robs, and everyone's happy.

NIKOLAI: The manifestations of God are the people that bring different religions...

NIKOLAI: for Christians, it's Jesus, for Baha'is, it's Baha'u'llah, for Buddhists, it's Buddha.

TARAZ: We follow the Baha'i teachings, but we look to the other religions as one religion as well.

SKYSHA: They say all messengers of God have the same message and that is to spread peace and love to the world.

NIKOLAI: And everyone is equal in Baha'i's eyes. No matter your race, religion, gender, or anything else.

CLARA: Pretty much at the beginning and the end of the day, we all try to say at least one prayer.

TARAZ: I usually say some prayers that I learnt in children's class, like, oh God, guide me, or Blessed is the spot and thy name is my healing.

SKYSHA: I also have one about love that I'm trying to learn right now that I have next to my bedside table.

NIKOLAI: Baha'is celebrate a few special days called Holy Days.

TARAZ: My favourite one is Ridvan.

CLARA: Ridvan is the period of time where Baha'u'llah declared that he is the messenger of God in the Garden of Paradise or the Garden of Ridvan.

CLARA: He had like this big tent and then there were roses and in the stories it says the roses were piled so high that you couldn't see the person on the other side of you.

CLARA: We try to have lots of flowers in all of our celebrations.

TARAZ: Sometimes we all gather around and we go to feast.

SKYSHA: we have feast as the celebration where you could bring refreshments.

NIKOLAI: Sometimes people bring homemade cupcakes.

TARAZ: I especially like it when they get pizza from Domino's.

TARAZ: Being a Baha'i, it's special, usually people, they don't usually know about this faith.

NIKOLAI: Some of my favourite things about being Baha'i are that we get to have our feasts.

CLARA: The best thing is getting presents and just being around people that I can connect to, and I can have a good time with.

SKYSHA: I think the most important thing about being a Baha'i to me is that it's fun finding new friends. I just met one a couple of weeks ago and it's nice seeing all the fun traditions we do.

Closer

Oh nice work guys, thanks for sharing. Well, that's it for today but don't you worry we'll be back with more next week and in the meantime, Newsbreak will be right here in the studio keeping you up to date. We've also got BTN High for all of your older BTNers out there. Have the best week and I'll see you really soon. Bye.