

Questions for discussion

Episode 20
2nd August 2016

Juvenile Justice

1. Discuss the BtN *Juvenile Justice* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. In the 1800s, kids who broke the law were punished like an _____.
3. How did things change in the early 1900s for kids who broke the law?
4. If kids do the wrong thing these days, how are they punished?
5. The aim is to do everything possible to keep kids out of trouble. Why?
6. What can happen if the crime is serious?
7. Why do the kids in juvenile detention centres do school work and learn job skills?
8. What did an investigation find about the treatment of kids in a Northern Territory detention centre?
9. What has Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced?
10. How did this story make you feel?

Write a message about the story and post it in the comments section on the story page

Russia Ban

1. Before you watch the BtN story, make some predictions about what the story is about.
2. Why have many Russian athletes been banned from competing in the Olympics?
3. Last year, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) released a report saying lots of Russian athletes had _____ drug tests.
4. Who was involved in the drug cheating?
5. How were the athletes cheating drug tests?
6. Why do some Russian athletes say the ban is unfair?
7. What do others in favour of the ban say?
8. What message to athletes does WADA say needs to be stronger?
9. Russian athletes in which sports are allowed to compete in the Olympics?
10. Should all Russian athletes be banned from the Olympics? Why or why not?

Check out the [Russia Ban resource](#) on the Teachers page

Vote in the Behind the News [online poll](#).

Crash-proof

1. Discuss the BtN *Crash-proof* story in pairs and record the main points of your discussion.
2. Why was 'Graham' created?
3. Who worked together to create 'Graham'?
4. What was the message of the campaign?

5. Deaths on Australian roads have
 - a. Increased
 - b. Decreased
 - c. Stayed the same
6. Which part of the human body is most vulnerable in an accident?
7. Name three of `Graham's` design features.
8. Which modification do you think is the most interesting or important? Explain your answer.
9. Finish the following sentence: `Graham` is meant to remind drivers that...
10. Do you think `Graham` is an effective way of getting the message across? Give reasons for your answer.

Check out the [Crash Proof resource](#) on the Teachers page

Alopecia Day

1. What was the main point of the story?
2. Alopecia is a condition where a person loses their _____.
3. How old was Stef when she started to lose her hair?
4. There is no cure for alopecia. True or false?
5. Finish the following sentence: Everyone has an army of soldiers in their body called the...
6. What does the immune system do in someone who has alopecia?
7. How did having alopecia impact on Stef?
8. How did wearing a wig make Stef feel?
9. Why did Stef stop wearing a wig every day?
10. What did you learn watching this story?

Do the [quiz](#) on the BtN website

Racing Kid

1. Briefly summarise the BtN *Racing Kid* story.
2. How old is Alex?
3. What sort of car does Alex drive?
4. How old was Alex when he started racing Go Karts?
5. When did he start competing internationally?
6. Where did Alex move to recently? Why?
7. What sort of car would Alex like to race in the future?
8. Who are Alex's driving heroes?
9. What character traits do you think are important for a racing car driver to have?
10. What was surprising about this story?

Write a message of support to Alex and post it in the comments section on the story page.

Teacher Resource

Russia Ban

FOCUS QUESTIONS

Before you watch the BtN story, make some predictions about what the story is about.

1. Why have many Russian athletes been banned from competing in the Olympics?
2. Last year, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) released a report saying lots of Russian athletes had _____ drug tests.
3. Who was involved in the drug cheating?
4. How were the athletes cheating drug tests?
5. Why do some Russian athletes say the ban is unfair?
6. What do others in favour of the ban say?
7. What message to athletes does WADA say needs to be stronger?
8. Russian athletes in which sports are allowed to compete in the Olympics?
9. Should all Russian athletes be banned from the Olympics? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY

Class Discussion

Watch the BtN *Russia Ban* story, discuss as a class. What questions were raised in the discussion (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

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

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry, collecting and recording information from a wide variety of sources

KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the issue of drug use in sport and the ban on the Russian Olympic team.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

English – Year 5

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing [text](#) structures, [language features](#), images and sound appropriate to purpose and [audience](#) (ACELY1704)

English – Year 6

Plan, rehearse and deliver presentations, selecting and sequencing appropriate content and multimodal elements for defined audiences and purposes, making appropriate choices of modality and emphasis (ACELY1710)

Participate in and contribute to discussions, clarifying and interrogating ideas, developing and supporting arguments, sharing and evaluating information, experiences and opinions (ACELY1709)

Health and Physical Education – Years 5 & 6

[Demonstrate](#) ethical behaviour and fair [play](#) that aligns with rules when participating in a range of physical activities (ACPMPO69)

ACTIVITY

Drug Testing

The following [video](#) explains how athletes are tested for performance enhancing drugs. Ask students to summarise the main points of the video.



ACTIVITY

What's your opinion?

Hold a class discussion to find out what students thoughts and opinions are about athletes and sportspeople using performance enhancing drugs. Record their responses.

Ask students to find the answers to the following questions:

- What is a performance enhancing drug?
- Why do some athletes take performance enhancing drugs?
- Find two examples of a banned substance. How does the drug help the athlete's performance?
- How are athletes and sportspeople drug tested?
- What are the consequences for taking drugs?
- What do you think the consequences should be?
- What other ways do athletes and sportspeople improve or enhance their performance (equipment, diet, special training, for example, altitude training).
- Do you think it's possible to stop athletes taking performance enhancing drugs?

Students can present their responses to the questions in one of the following ways:

- An oral presentation
- [Prezi](#) presentation
- A poster using [Glogster](#)



ACTIVITY

Classroom debate

Prepare for your class debate using the following statement.

Russian athletes should be banned from the 2016 Olympics

Students will work in small groups to brainstorm ideas for both the affirmative and negative and record their ideas on a piece of A3 paper. Students will choose the strongest points from their list of ideas to share with the class.

Consider running your own class debate on a topic. Refer to [Debating SA's resources](#) for worksheets, checklists and fact sheets on writing speeches and running class debates.

Reflection

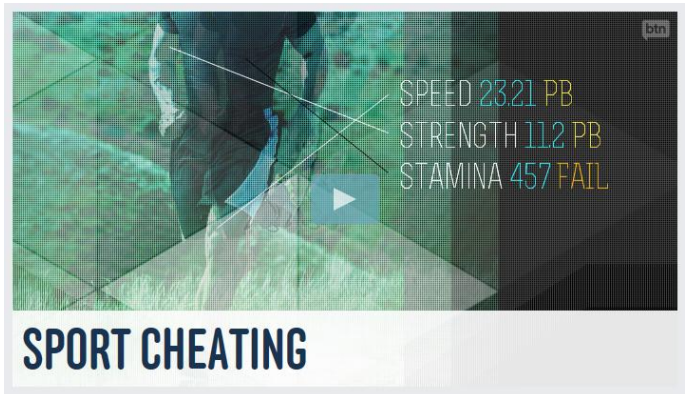
- How difficult was it to think of points to support one side of the argument?
- Do you think you would have done a better job supporting the other side of the argument?
- Was I able to convince others of my opinion?
- Did my opinion change?
- What did you learn from this activity?



ACTIVITY

Watch the BtN [Sport Cheating](#) story to find out more about drug use in sport.

1. An early example of Olympic cheating was the 1904 marathon. Describe what happened.
2. What drug was commonly used during the 70's and 80's in the Olympics and other sporting events?
3. Describe the process of blood doping.
4. Altitude training is legal. True or false?
5. Blood doping and altitude training produce similar results. Why is one legal and the other not?
6. What do you understand more clearly since watching this story?
7. What are some solutions to the problem?





USEFUL WEBSITES

CBBC Newsround – Olympic ban upheld for Russian track and field team

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/36856116>

ABC News – Russia to teach anti-doping in schools as part of new measures to reform ahead of Rio 2016 Olympics

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-07/russia-teaching-anti-doping-in-schools/7483722>

BBC Sport - Rio Olympics 2016: Russian athletes are arriving, but how many will compete?

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/36881326>

CBBC Newsround - How are athletes tested for drugs?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/33759073>

Behind the News – Sport Cheating

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3689496.htm>

Crash-proof

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the BtN *Crash-proof* story in pairs and record the main points of your discussion.
2. Why was 'Graham' created?
3. Who worked together to create 'Graham'?
4. What was the message of the campaign?
5. Deaths on Australian roads have
 - a. Increased
 - b. Decreased
 - c. Stayed the same
6. Which part of the human body is most vulnerable in an accident?
7. Name three of 'Graham's' design features.
8. Which modification do you think is the most interesting or important? Explain your answer.
9. Finish the following sentence: 'Graham' is meant to remind drivers that...
10. Do you think the 'Graham' is an effective way of getting the message across? Give reasons for your answer.

ACTIVITY

After watching the BtN story, respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- How did this story make you FEEL?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?

Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion about the issues raised in the BtN *Crash Proof* story. Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What is the aim of the 'Graham' campaign?
- What is the message?
- Who do you think the target audience is?
- What are some of 'Graham's' features that have been designed

KEY LEARNING

Students will examine the motor accident campaign featuring Graham. They will also look at the artworks of Patricia Piccinini, the artist who created Graham.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Health and Physical Education – Years 5 & 6

Investigate community resources and ways to seek help about health, safety and wellbeing (ACPPS053)

Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing (ACPPS054)

Health and Physical Education – Years 7 & 8

Plan and use health practices, behaviours and resources to enhance health, safety and wellbeing of their communities (ACPPS077)

Science – Years 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions (ACSHE083) (ACSHE100)

Science – Year 7

Solutions to contemporary issues that are found using science and technology, may impact on other areas of society and may involve ethical considerations (ACSHE120)

People use science understanding and skills in their occupations and these have influenced the development of practices in areas of human activity (ACSHE121)

Visual Arts – Years 5 & 6

Explore ideas and practices used by artists, including practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to represent different views, beliefs and opinions (ACAVAM114)

- to survive a crash?
- Do you think the 'Graham' is an effective way of getting the message across? Give reasons for your answer.

ACTIVITY

Meet Graham

Students will look at the adaptations made to Graham's body that allow him to have a greater chance of surviving the forces involved in a crash. Using the [interactive of Graham](#), students can see what's going on under the skin and watch a short video explaining the importance of each adaptation. They can then respond to the questions for each feature.

Look at Graham's [brain](#)

Why is the brain vulnerable?

How is Graham's brain different to ours?

Look at Graham's [skull](#)

How has his skull been made to protect his brain?

In the video, how does the artist describe Graham's skull?

Look at Graham's [face](#)

Why is Graham's face flat?

Why does he have fatty tissue around his face?

Look at Graham's [neck](#)

Why doesn't Graham have a neck?

Which part of his body extends up to his skull?

Look at Graham's [skin](#)

How is skin damaged in an accident?

Describe Graham's skin.

Look at Graham's [ribs](#)

What do the ribs protect?

How are Graham's ribs different to ours?

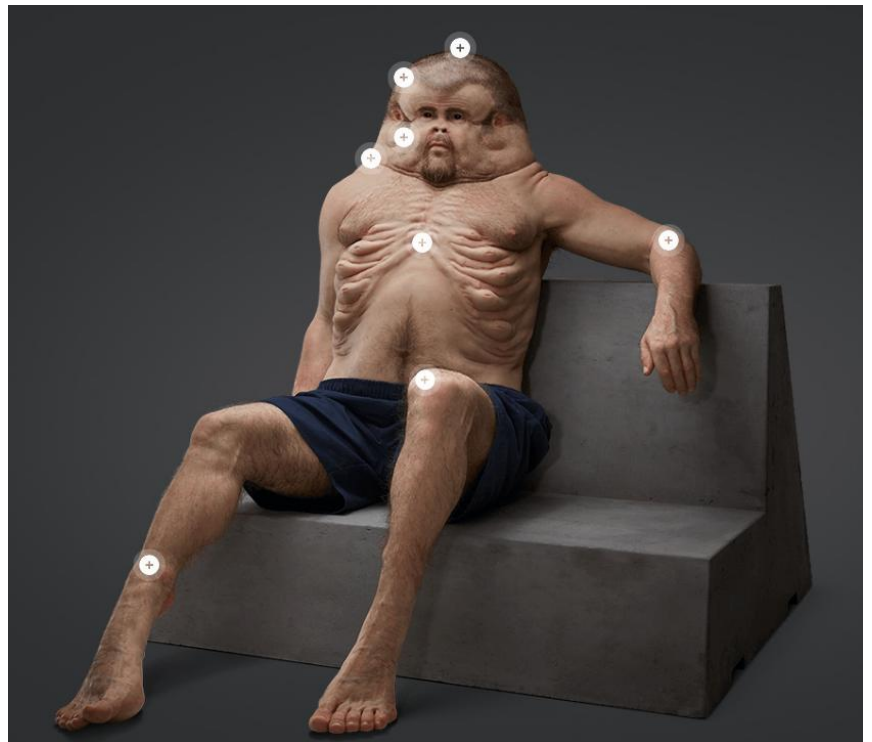
Look at Graham's [knees](#)

What is a common injury to pedestrians?

What is the key design feature of Graham's knees?

Look at Graham's [Legs and feet](#)

Why has Graham got hoof-like legs?



ACTIVITY

Braking Distance

The [Science of low-level speeding video](#) explains how speed impacts on reaction time and braking distance, therefore increasing the chance of an accident. After watching the animation, students can respond to the following questions:

- What is low-level speeding?
- What impact can travelling as little as 5km/hr have?
- Why does a small increase in speed increase the chance of a crash?
- What do you understand more clearly after watching this video?



Give Me a Brake Game

Students can play the [Give Me a Brake game](#) to learn more about the things that affect braking distance. They can test the effects of vehicle type, tyres, road surface and weather conditions. They can also record the results of the investigation. Ask students to respond to the following questions:

- What did you learn about braking distance in this investigation?
- What was surprising about the results?



ACTIVITY

Meet the Artist

Students will find out more about the work of Patricia Piccinini, the artist who created *Graham*. In this [video](#) she talks more about working on the *Graham* project.

Look at Patricia Piccinini's [artworks](#). Choose one piece that you are interested in and explore in detail.

- What is it? Describe what the artwork looks like using as much detail as possible.
- What materials are used to make this artwork?
- Draw a picture of the artwork.
- What do you like or find interesting about the artwork?
- Why do you think the artist created the artwork?





USEFUL WEBSITES

Towards Zero - Meet graham

<http://www.meetgraham.com.au>

Behind the News – Seat Belt Safety

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3948861.htm>

ABC News – Victoria's TAC introduces human sculpture 'Graham' to stress importance of road safety

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-21/graham-sculpture-new-face-of-tac-victorian-road-safety-campaign/7648024>

BtN: Episode 20 Transcript 02/08/16

Hello, I'm Amelia and this is BtN.

Coming up today

- More than a hundred Russian athletes banned from the Olympics - we'll explain why.
- Meet Graham, the man designed to survive a car-crash.
- And Stef tells us what it's like growing up with alopecia.

Juvenile Justice

Reporter: Amelia Moseley

INTRO: But first to some big news about kids and the justice system. Vision has been released of children being mistreated while in detention in the Northern Territory. The PM immediately called for a royal commission to investigate. But it all raises the question what's okay and what's not okay when it comes to kids and the law. Let's take a look.

KID 1: Bread! Get your fresh bread here, only 5p!

KID 2: What can I get you, son?

KID 1: That there loaf please, guvnor.

Back in the 1800s, if you were a kid who broke the law, you would've been in a whole lot of trouble. You would've been punished just like any adult. That could mean hard labour, or hard time.

REPORTER: Then in the early 1900s, people realised it was really cruel and unfair to punish kids the same way they punish adults. They stopped putting them in adult jails like this one, and instead they created new laws to protect them and special children's courts to judge them in.

KID 1: What are you after, buddy?

KID 2: Just a drink thanks.

These days, there's still a punishment for every crime; even if you're a kid.

KID 1: Hey! Thief!

KID 3: Stop right there, kid.

That punishment could be a warning, or a meeting with the police and your parents to work out a punishment like a written apology, a fine or community service. The aim is to do everything possible to keep kids out of trouble and give them as many chances as possible to make amends. But if the crime is really serious, you could end up in a youth or children's court and that could lead here - a youth detention centre.

Kids in youth detention have to do everything they're told. They might stay here a few months or a few years, and although they miss out on a lot of things, most kids in detention still get the chance to take school classes or practice other job skills. The idea isn't just to punish kids, but to encourage them to improve their behaviour and turn their lives around. That's called rehabilitation.

But lately, there have been worries that some youth detention centres in Australia are treating kids really badly instead.

Some teenagers who were sent to this centre in the Northern Territory say they were locked in tiny, hot rooms for days, even weeks. And there's evidence the guards were hurting them and then covering up their behaviour.

It's made a lot of people really angry and PM Malcolm Turnbull has announced there will be a big inquiry in the NT to find out what's going wrong and make sure kids are protected.

PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM TURNBULL: We are determined to get to the bottom of this. Ah, we are determined to examine the extent to which there has been a culture of abuse.

Some reckon Australia needs to think of an alternative to the centres altogether, because they say locking kids up doesn't help them stay out of trouble now or in the future. Others say youth detention is the only way to get through to some kids. But either way, most agree that every kid deserves to be treated humanely even if they break the law.

This Week in News

Hillary Clinton has officially been chosen to run for US President by her political party. It all happened at a big meeting of the Democratic Party in Philadelphia.

HILLARY CLINTON: I'll accept your nomination for President of the United States.

She's made history because it's the first time a woman from one of America's two main parties is up for the top job.

Her opponent in the coming election is Donald Trump. He got the nod from the Republican Party at its convention a week before.

People in America will vote for their new leader in November.

While America's political leaders were excited to accept their nominations it was a different story for former Aussie PM Kevin Rudd after he was told he wouldn't be nominated for the UN's top job. Mr Rudd wanted to apply to be the new Secretary General of the United Nations and he asked the government to support him.

But in the end Malcolm Turnbull said no saying he didn't think Mr Rudd was suitable.

Remember the ice bucket challenge? Well it turns out all that silliness had a really great outcome.

Scientists say the money people raised has helped to fund an important discovery about Motor Neurone Disease. They've found a new gene which plays a part in causing the degenerative condition which affects people's movement and muscle function.

Muggles around the world have gone mad for Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. The play from author JK Rowling officially launched in London over the weekend as did the book version of the script. It cast a spell over thousands of Aussie fans who queued for hours to learn more about the famous boy-wizard who's now all grown up.

FAN: I'm probably going to be staying up really late tonight reading.

JK Rowling says this is the last instalment of Harry's magical life story.

Russia Ban

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: Now it's nearly time for the Olympic Games to kick off in Rio but many of the athletes from one big nation won't be there. A lot of the Russian team has been banned after investigators found out they'd been using performance enhancing drugs and that some Russian officials were helping them get away with it. Here are the details.

It's the event the world's best athletes spend their lives working towards, the Olympic Games. But while many of these guys are hoping to win gold at Rio, quite a few athletes from one country in particular have now lost their chance to compete.

Russia. It's famous for being really big, really cold, and for these doll things. It's also known as one of the big contenders at the Olympic Games. All up, it's won more medals than any other country besides the USA.

But Russia's going to have to compete at Rio without lots of their top athletes. The World Anti-Doping Agency, or WADA is the group in charge of testing athletes for performance enhancing drugs. It found many Russian athletes had been cheating.

Last year, WADA released a report saying lots of Russian athletes had failed drug tests. Russia said it'd clean things up, but when WADA went back for another check, it found things hadn't changed enough. In fact, the latest WADA report found cheating in Russia was more widespread than thought, and involved government officials. It even found Russian secret service agents were helping athletes to cheat drug tests by smuggling out urine samples from labs and swapping them with clean ones that'd been frozen and stored. Gross.

WADA asked for the whole Russian team to be banned from this year's games, but the Olympic Committee decided to leave the decision up to the different sports. The International Athletics Federation has already announced that no track and field athletes from Russia will be allowed to compete. Other sports, like swimming, rowing, and modern pentathlon have gone for partial bans. But some Russian athletes say that's really unfair because they haven't done anything wrong, and they're being banned for the actions of a few.

SVETLANA ULOGA, RUSSIAN RUNNER: I think it's unfair to punish the whole country, all clean athletes. We have nothing to do with it and we are deprived of the opportunity.

But many others disagree, including Jamaican sprinter, Usain Bolt.

USAIN BOLT, SPRINTER: Rules are rules and doping violations in track and field are getting really bad. So if you feel like you need to make a statement, then thumbs up.

WADA says Olympics organisers needed to send a stronger message that cheating isn't OK. But while many athletes have been banned, other sporting organisations, including the ones in charge of archery, table tennis, and equestrian have given the OK for athletes to compete in those areas. So what do you think should happen?

KID 1: I think it's good that they're banning people who are doing the wrong thing and punishing them by not letting them compete.

KID 2: There are some of the Russian athletes who are honestly working hard to get in the Olympics and if they ban all the athletes it's really unfair for them, but on the other hand it's going to be very hard for them to, like, they'll have to test each and every athlete to make sure who is taking drugs and who isn't.

KID 3: I don't think they should be allowed to compete but I feel sorry for them all the same because they were working hard towards the Olympics but they shouldn't have taken the drugs and they've just set themselves back. I don't think any government should support that.

KID 4: I do think they should be banned because it's not fair them having a physical advantage over the other competitors.

KID 5: I think it's a good opportunity for Australia because now they can compete more and there's one less person to go against so now we've got a bit better of a chance at getting a better place.

Ask a Reporter

Matt Holbrook: Got a question about Russia's Olympic ban? You can ask me live on Friday during Ask a Reporter!

Just head to our website for all the details.

Poll

And that issue will also be our poll this week.

The question: Should all Russian athletes be banned from the Olympics?

Let us know what you think on our website.

Now in last week's BtN poll we asked if greyhound racing should be banned in Australia. More than three thousand people voted and 54% said they would support a ban.

Thanks to everyone for having a say.

Crash-proof

Reporter: Matthew Holbrook

INTRO: Now this human sculpture named Graham has been designed by road safety experts to demonstrate what we'd need to look like to be able to survive a high speed car crash. Now he's not the most attractive guy but he does give us an interesting insight into why it's so important to stay safe on the roads. Take a look.

Extra joints in the legs, airbags built into the chest, no neck, and a giant skull. This is Graham and he's not much of a looker. But according to the Transport Accident Commission in Victoria he's what a "human" would need to look like to survive a car crash.

David, Road Safety Expert: The truth is that cars have evolved faster than our bodies have, our bodies are just not equipped to handle the forces in common crash scenarios.

A team of experts worked with a famous artist to create this super strange looking guy. And they made him to show just how fragile our bodies are in a crash.

Christian, Trauma Surgeon: We just don't appreciate, when we're talking about it, the forces in a car accident. They're incredible. The strongest man cannot hold himself from going forward in a car accident because the forces are so great

Cars can be very dangerous. They're big, heavy, and they move around at very high speeds. Deaths on Australia's roads have slowly been dropping. From almost 4000 in 1970, down to about 1200 in 2015.

But that's still a lot. The reason why there are so many deaths on our roads is that our bodies aren't really designed to deal with the powerful forces of a crash.

REPORTER: And your head is the most vulnerable bit. Now, it might not feel like it but as you're driving along your whole body is moving forward at high speed. So that means, if the car stops suddenly your head keeps going like this putting a lot of force on your neck and spine. Inside your head that sudden jerking movement can cause your brain to crash into your skull too.

That's why Graham's face looks so, well, ugly. He's been designed to have no neck, a thicker skull, and a whole bunch of padding around the head to protect him.

David, Road Safety Expert: In the modern world we're subjecting our bodies to much higher speeds, and the body just doesn't have the physiology to absorb the energy when things go wrong

But Graham has a few other special modifications too. Extra joints in the legs and feet, along with extra tendons protect his legs. He's also got super tough skin to protect against cuts and bruises.

And although our ribs are already great protection for our organs, Graham has especially strong ribs with little air sacks between them to cushion him in a crash.

Graham's certainly not the best looking guy. But he's not meant to be. He's meant to show people how different we'd need to look to be 100% safe on our roads. And to remind drivers that if we can't all look like this, then we need to pay attention and follow rules to keeping everyone safe on the road.

Quiz

That brings us to our first quiz.

Wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of serious injury in a car crash by how much?

- 10%
- 25%
- 50%

The answer: 50%

Alopecia Day

Rookie Reporter: Stef

INTRO: Saturday the 6th of August is International Alopecia Day. Alopecia's a condition that affects thousands of young Aussies making them lose some or all of the hair on their bodies. Rookie reporter Stef is here to explain what that's like.

STEF: Hi BTN, my name's Stef! And I want to tell you about growing up with a condition that you might not know that much about.

It all started when I was six years old - that was when I first realised my hair was falling out. It was really scary and confusing, I kept waiting for someone to break out the magic wand and just make me better, but it didn't happen like that. Instead the doctor told me I had alopecia.

STEF: Alopecia is a hair loss condition which has no cure.

Basically everyone has a little army of soldiers in their body called the immune system. It's supposed to protect us from nasty things like coughs and colds.

STEF: My soldiers unfortunately, they're not the sharpest crayons in the pack!

They see my hair and they attack it, which is why it falls out.

STEF: There are three different kinds of alopecia. Alopecia areata, which is where you get patches of hair loss on the scalp; Alopecia Totalis, which is when you lose all your hair on your head and that's what I have now, and Alopecia Universalis, which is when you lose all the hair on your body, including your eyebrows and eyelashes.

The good news for you guys is that it's not contagious - you can't catch it from anyone. And the good news for me is that I haven't had a bad hair day in ages!

And what wardrobe would be complete without novelty beanies! You can see the family resemblance!

Now I know how to laugh about it, but as a kid it was really tough having a condition that makes you look so different, especially when I finally went bald in Year 6.

STEF: It had a massive impact on me and I was so sad for a really long time about it and very insecure. I thought that being different would put a target on my back for things like bullying and teasing so I kept it a secret for a really long time.

This is the first wig I ever got when I was about 12 years old. I'd already done a presentation to my year level about having alopecia so everybody knew and when I came to school for the first time wearing it all of my friends came running up to me saying Stef, Stef it looks so good and I can actually still wear this. I'm thinking I might dye it a fun colour like blue or purple. What do you guys reckon? You might have to help me convince my mum.

These ones are really awesome because you can do things like surfing, swimming sport and they don't come off, here look I'll show you. So if you ever wanted to do a bit of headbanging, it's not gonna come off!

Good wigs can cost thousands of dollars, but thanks to people who donated their hair to charity I was able to get one.

What it did was help me fit in when all I wanted to do was belong, and it made me feel safe because when I went outside without my wig on, people would stare at me and sometimes say nasty things.

As I got older I started to realise I didn't have to look like everyone else. That's when I finally stopped wearing my wig every day.

STEF: I thought that having my condition made me ugly. Now I think that you know I'm not the kind of beautiful that you see on magazines, but I'm my kind of beautiful and somehow that's even better! I think there's more beauty in who you are and what you do than there is in what you look like.

And by sharing my story, I hope other kids with alopecia will start to see themselves as being beautiful too.

Quiz 2

How long does a hair follicle live for?

- 6 weeks
- 5 years
- Or, your whole life

Answer: 5 years.

Sport

The Queensland Firebirds have won the trans-Tasman netball grand final. They defeated the NSW Swifts 69-67 in an incredibly close match. So close, it went to double extra time! In the end Firebirds star Romelda Aiken stepped up to score the winner.

The Firebirds are the first team ever to win back-to-back championships.

Daniel Ricciardo has celebrated his 100th grand prix with a podium finish in Germany. He came in 2nd behind Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton. It was Ricciardo's second podium finish in a row keeping him in 3rd place on the overall championship table.

An American skydiver has jumped into the record books without a parachute!! Luke Aikins jumped out of a plane flying over Southern California and free fell 27 hundred metres before landing in a 30 square metre net!

It's the highest dive anyone's ever made without a parachute and it took two years of practice to get it right.

That's definitely not one you want to try at home!

And Christmas came early in Canberra over the weekend as the city was invaded by hundreds of Santas wearing speedos. It might seem strange but it was all for a good cause. This fun run helped raise more than one hundred thousand dollars for people living with cystic fibrosis.

Way to go, Santa.

Racing Kid

Reporter: Matt Holbrook

INTRO: He's one of the top racing drivers in a big series in Europe but back in Australia he still can't get his licence. His name is Alex Peroni and despite his age, this Aussie kid is already taking the racing world by storm. Let's take a look.

He's one of the best young drivers in the world, racing at speeds of up to 250 kays per hour against some of the sport's best. But off the race track, and on the road, things are different.

ALEX: I've got my L plates so I can drive with mum in the passenger seat. I'm not the best still - I've got a lot of things to learn.

Ok, so at 16, Alex isn't quite old enough to drive himself to the race track, but he does have some serious skills when he gets there.

DAVID QUINN, SPONSOR: He obviously can drive very well. He's the youngest Australian to be racing at this level.

Alex competes in Europe in the Monoplace challenge

ALEX: I drive what's called a Formula Renault. It's quite an early stage in single seater, it's made for younger people, it has a two litre engine.

With a few wins under his belt, Alex is now leading the series and is on track to take out the championships! It's an incredible accomplishment, but even though he's just 16, he's been racing for a really long time. Alex began racing go karts when he was 7, and competing internationally when he was 9.

ALEX: I probably got into it through my dad and dad has a lot of DVDs he used to play for me, and I used to watch them for a long time and I got hooked at a very young age.

PIERO, ALEX'S DAD: If only I'd known where this would have ended but Alex was insistent, he's very passionate about motor sport.

ALEX: I started at 7 so very young and then you just climb up the categories always wanting to compete with the best in the country and the world.

And he recently made the big step of moving to Italy, and living with his grandparents, so he could compete against the world's best. While it looks like it's paying off, Alex already has his sights set on competing in Formula One, like some of his driving heroes.

ALEX: Daniel Ricciardo and ex-drivers like Michael Schumacher and Senna and stuff like that yeah I look up to them.

DAVID QUINN, SPONSOR: From what we've heard from his team mates and from his engineers he does have the ability to do it.

He wants to be in Formula One by the time he's 20, and while he still has a long way to go, Alex reckons with a bit of hard work he's got what it takes.

ALEX: My passion for it, I work hard for it, I study and I try my very best at it.

Closer

And that's it for today! But as always there's heaps of awesome stuff for you to check out on our website. And we'll see you next time. Bye for now.