

The epic journey that made us...

AUSTRALIA

THE STORY OF US





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AUSTRALIA: THE STORY OF US is an extraordinary narrative about the people, places and events that have shaped our nation from the first footprints on our continent to the present day.

Using astounding visual sequences, this ground-breaking drama documentary series weaves together stories of our origins and offers an original thesis about how we came to create the homeland we inhabit today.

Alongside amazing CGI and innovative filming techniques, the series features interviews with important thinkers, notable celebrities and iconic national figures who take us inside the stories that have influenced our history.

AUSTRALIA: THE STORY OF US is narrated by Australian actor Richard Roxburgh and features commentary from Australian figures including Associate Professor Charlie Teo, Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, Professor Tim Flannery, Reverend Tim Costello, Adam Goodes, Dick Smith, Andrew O'Keefe, Ian Thorpe, Molly Meldrum, Bindi Irwin, Layne Beachley, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, Rebecca Gibney, Guy Sebastian, Dannii Minogue and Chris Bath.

AUSTRALIA: THE STORY OF US is produced by Seven Network Australia and Essential Media.



EPISODE 1

WORLDS COLLIDE

45,000 YEARS AGO – 1808:
**THE DEATH FLEET, MEGAFUNA:
PRE-HISTORIC AUSTRALIA, SEALING,
PEMULWUY AND THE FRONTIER WARS,
RUM REBELLION**

Aboriginal Australians thrive and leave their marks on every corner on the driest, inhabited continent on Earth for at least 50,000 years. When 800 British convicts and their guards come to stay, worlds collide. The colonial experiment almost starves and fails when it's barely begun. We fight American interlopers for the profits of our first resource boom. Under freedom fighter Pemulwuy, the First Australians seek to drive the British back. And in their own rebellion, the colonists fight William Bligh's restricted vision of what Australia might become – a revolution with its roots in rum.



EPISODE 2

BREAK OUT

1837 – 1854:

THE GREAT ESCAPE, THE CONVICT
WHO SAVES THE CITY OF CHURCHES,
CAROLINE CHISHOLM - MOTHER OF THE
NATION, GOLD FEVER, EUREKA STOCKADE

Nearly 50 years since the arrival of the First Fleet, wool drives British expansion across the continent. Australia begins to break free from its convict shackles and becomes a land of opportunity. The discovery of gold creates the world's biggest population explosion. And a ragtag bunch of gold miners fight and die for their rights against the deadliest army in the world.



EPISODE 3

FAIR GO

1862 – 1890:

GOLD ROBBERY, THE OVERLAND TELEGRAPH, INVENTING AFL, NELLIE MELBA, FIGHT FOR A FAIR GO

Gold brings new wealth to the Australian colonies but not everyone's prepared to dig for their share. A heroic race across the continent enables the construction of the Overland Telegraph. High wages and time off encourage the invention of our unique football code. Dame Nellie Melba faces a daunting audition for the chance to become the most famous Australian in the world. When our longest boom ends in bitter crash, Australia goes to the brink of civil war over who will share in the wealth of the continent.



EPISODE 4

NEW NATION AT WAR

1915 – 1918:

GALLIPOLI SUBMARINE, BILLY SING'S DEADLY GIFT, THE GALLIPOLI LETTER, WWI NURSES, VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

Our newly minted nation throws itself into a global conflict, the outcome of which will decide Australia's fate. From the trenches comes invention and audacity. Frank Murdoch's daring letter will save thousands of lives – if he can bypass British Intelligence. The Australian submarine AE2 changes the course of the Gallipoli campaign. Nurse Alicia Kelly helps transform emergency medicine terrifyingly close to the front line. To protect his mates Sniper Billy Sing allows himself become the target. Pompey Elliot helps reinvents trench warfare. The trauma of war leaves its mark but a new Australian spirit is born.





EPISODE 5

HARD ROADS TO GLORY

1928 – 1942:

CHARLES KINGSFORD SMITH,
SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE, PHAR LAP,
RUBY RADAR, KOKODA

Australia emerges scarred from the First World War, but also victorious and confident. New technology like planes and radios shrink the continent. Charles Kingsford Smith uses both to cross the Pacific and tell Australians the story as it happens. Not even the Great Depression can stop the completion of the nation's most ambitious construction project: the Sydney Harbour Bridge. In hard times Phar Lap carries the hopes of the nation on his broad back. A secret Australian invention proves to be a critical turning point in a second global conflict. And the war with Japan tests Australia to its limits on the Kokoda Track.

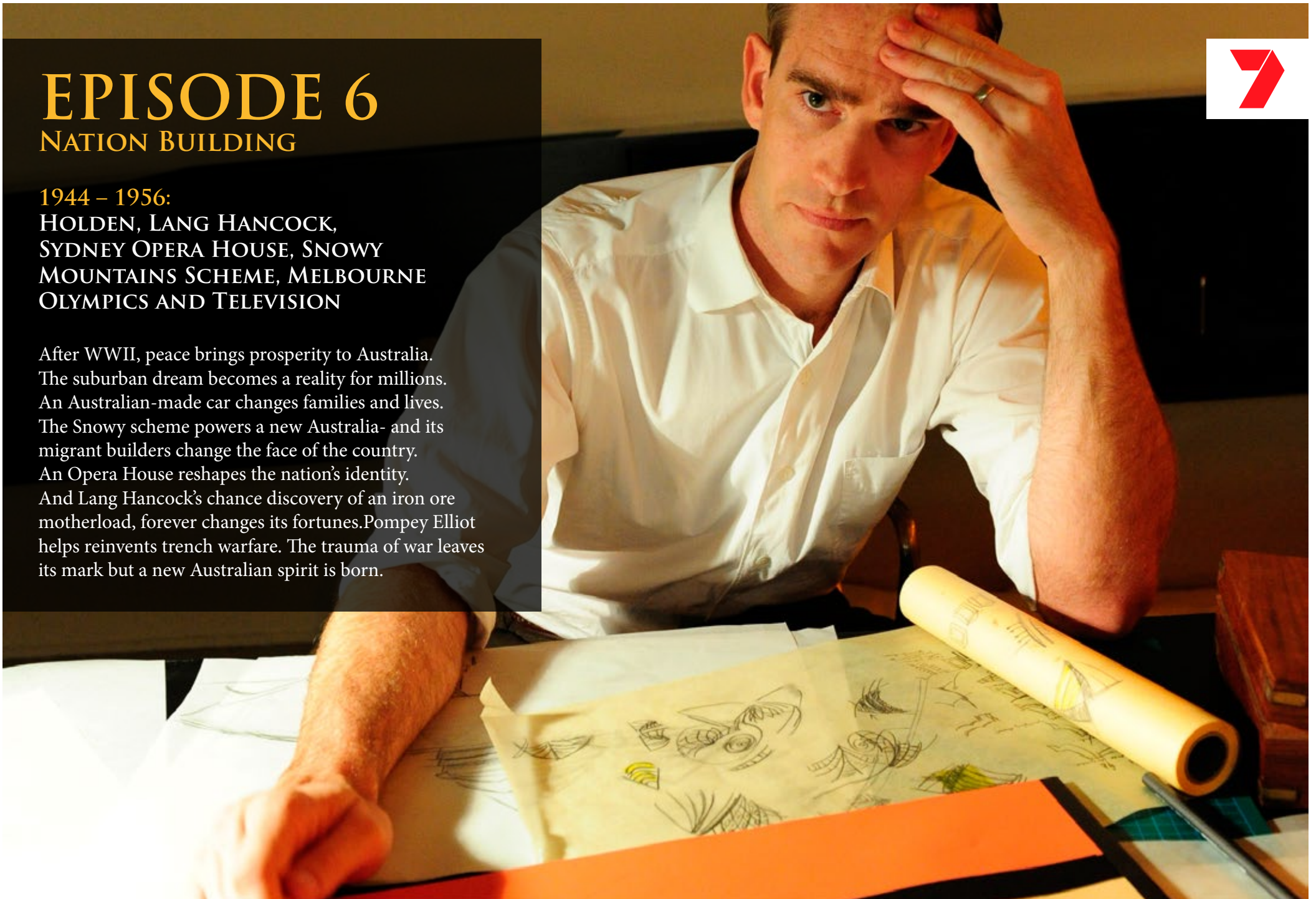
EPISODE 6

NATION BUILDING

1944 – 1956:

**HOLDEN, LANG HANCOCK,
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, SNOWY
MOUNTAINS SCHEME, MELBOURNE
OLYMPICS AND TELEVISION**

After WWII, peace brings prosperity to Australia. The suburban dream becomes a reality for millions. An Australian-made car changes families and lives. The Snowy scheme powers a new Australia- and its migrant builders change the face of the country. An Opera House reshapes the nation's identity. And Lang Hancock's chance discovery of an iron ore motherload, forever changes its fortunes. Pompey Elliot helps reinvents trench warfare. The trauma of war leaves its mark but a new Australian spirit is born.



A young man with curly hair, wearing a black leather jacket over a red shirt, is being escorted by two police officers in dark uniforms and caps. They are in a brick building, possibly a stadium, as indicated by a sign in the background that says "BRISBANE STADIUM". The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the texture of his jacket.

EPISODE 7

REVOLUTION

1956 – 1974:

**ROCK 'N' ROLL RIOT, BEACH WARS,
THE RISE OF THE LARRIKIN, EVONNE
GOOLAGONG, CYCLONE TRACY**

For the first time in decades, a generation is free from economic depression and conflict. The result? Rebellion sweeps the suburbs and the beaches. The baby boomers transform the nation. The Larrikin is celebrated – to great effect and profit. For the first time, Australia embraces Indigenous heroes like Evonne Goolagong. And a force of nature shakes Australia to its core.



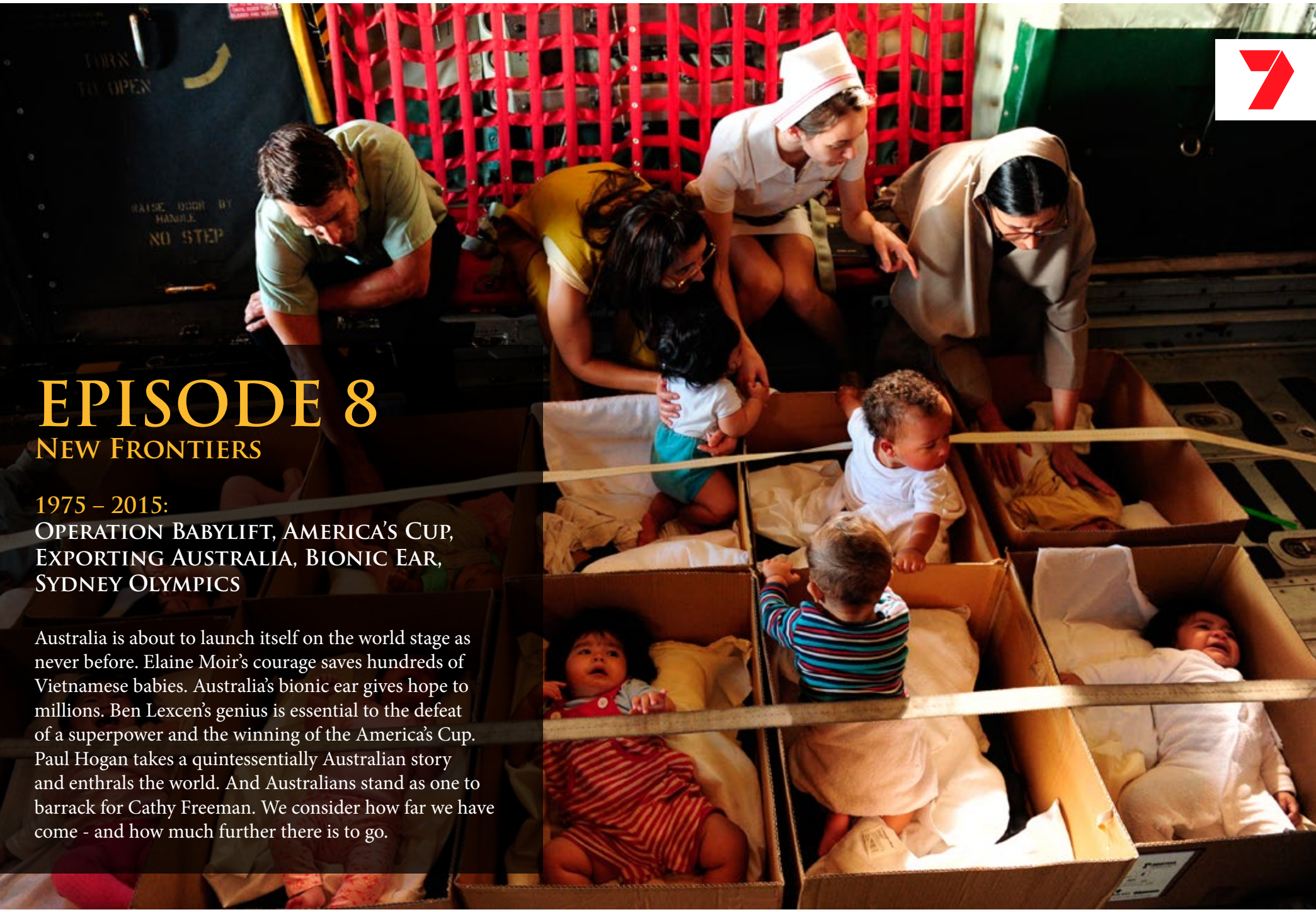
EPISODE 8

NEW FRONTIERS

1975 – 2015:

OPERATION BABYLIFT, AMERICA'S CUP,
EXPORTING AUSTRALIA, BIONIC EAR,
SYDNEY OLYMPICS

Australia is about to launch itself on the world stage as never before. Elaine Moir's courage saves hundreds of Vietnamese babies. Australia's bionic ear gives hope to millions. Ben Lexcen's genius is essential to the defeat of a superpower and the winning of the America's Cup. Paul Hogan takes a quintessentially Australian story and enthral the world. And Australians stand as one to barrack for Cathy Freeman. We consider how far we have come - and how much further there is to go.





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