



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.

Palestinian Statehood

1. What countries want to recognise Palestine as an independent state? List 3.
2. What are the 4 main rules a place needs to meet before it can be considered an independent state?
3. What 2 groups within the UN does Palestine need approval from before it can become a state?
4. Name a country that has been recognised by the UN in recent years.
5. What questions do you have about the story?

Vincent Lingiari

1. In which state or territory is Wave Hill located?
 - a. South Australia
 - b. Northern Territory
 - c. Western Australia
2. Who were the traditional owners of the area?
3. What year did Vincent Lingiari lead the Wave Hill walk-off?
4. Why did the Gurindji people go on strike?
5. What famous gesture symbolised the returning of land to the Gurindji people?

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

First Nations Seasons

1. What changes do you notice in nature during different seasons where you live? Give 2 examples.
2. How many seasons are there in the Kurna calendar?
3. What Kurna season can you see a star called Parna?
4. What type of weather would you normally experience during the Kurna season of Kudlilla?
5. What are the First Nations seasons where you live?

EPISODE 23

19 August 2025

KEY LEARNING

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

CURRICULUM

English – Year 4

Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning to expand content knowledge, integrating and linking ideas and analysing and evaluating texts.

English – Year 5

Use comprehension strategies to analyse information, integrating and linking ideas from a variety of print and digital sources.

English – Year 6

Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources including media and digital texts.

English – Year 7

Use comprehension strategies to interpret, analyse and synthesise ideas and information, critiquing ideas and issues from a variety of textual sources.

Book Week

1. What year did Book Week begin?
2. Why was the Children's Book Council of Australia created?
3. What decade did a boom in Australian children's books being published start?
4. What percent of 8- to 18-year-olds are reading books in their spare time?
 - a. 18%
 - b. 38%
 - c. 58%
5. What is your favourite genre of book? Why?

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

Young Rapper

1. What genre of music does Rylie create?
2. What did Rylie use to record his first song?
3. What challenges did Rylie face while he was making music?
4. What encouraged Rylie to keep making music?
5. What are Rylie's songs about?



Teacher Resource

Vincent Lingiari

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. In which state or territory is Wave Hill located?
 - a. South Australia
 - b. Northern Territory
 - c. Western Australia
2. Who were the traditional owners of the area?
3. What year did Vincent Lingiari lead the Wave Hill walk-off?
4. Why did the Gurindji people go on strike?
5. What famous gesture symbolised the returning of land to the Gurindji people?

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: Personal Response

After watching the BTN Vincent Lingiari story students will complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- Vincent Lingiari was important because...
- It was interesting to learn...
- These are five words that I would use to describe Vincent Lingiari.
- This story made me feel...
- It is important to remember Vincent Lingiari because ...

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Vincent Lingiari story using the following discussion starters.

- Where is Wave Hill? Locate on a map.
- Who was Vincent Lingiari?
- Name one of his main achievements.
- Why was the Gurindji strike important?



EPISODE 23

19 August 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the Wave Hill walk-off and the contribution that Vincent Lingiari has made to Australian society.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3 and 4

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

Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations.

HASS – Year 4

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

HASS – Year 5

the role of a significant individual or group, including First Nations Australians and those who migrated to Australia, in the development of events in an Australian colony.

the impact of the development of British colonies in Australia on the lives of First Nations Australians, the colonists and convicts, and on the natural environment.

HASS – Year 6

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

History – Year 7

the social organisation and cultural practices of early First Nations Australians, and their continuity and change over time.

Activity: Key words

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

Land rights

Native Title

First Nations peoples

Strike

Indigenous rights

Equality

Activist

Recognition

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.

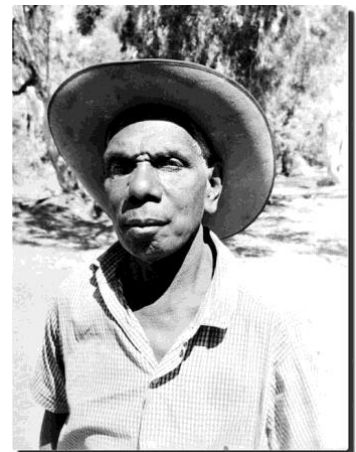
Further Investigation

- What is advocacy? Ask students to give an example of when Vincent Lingiari was an *advocate* on Indigenous issues.
- In Australia, people speak up for Indigenous rights in many ways, like signing *petitions*, joining *protests*, going on *strike*, working in *unions* and taking *action*. What are some ways the Wave Hill walk-off showed these strategies?

Activity: Who was Vincent Lingiari?

Students will develop a biography of Vincent Lingiari. Begin by discussing with students what a biography is. What information is included in a biography and what does it tell us about a person? Students can use the following questions to guide their research.

- When and where was Vincent Lingiari born?
- Who was his family?
- What was his occupation?
- How did he become a rights activist?
- What challenges did he face and how did he overcome them?
- What were his achievements?
- What is Vincent Lingiari's legacy?
- What do you admire about him?



Further Investigation

Interview

Imagine you could sit down and talk to Vincent Lingiari. What questions would you ask about his life and achievements?

Portrait

Create a portrait of Vincent Lingiari. Explore and experiment with different techniques and mediums to produce a portrait.

Journal Entry

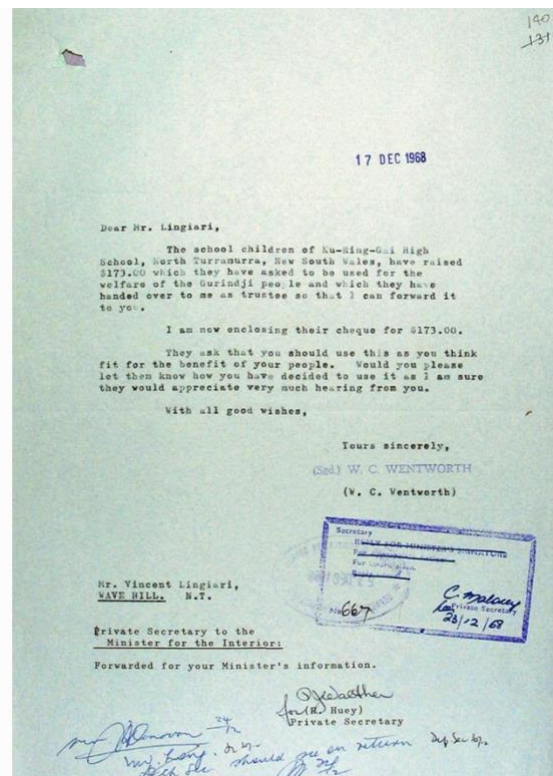
Imagine you are Vincent Lingiari. Choose a moment in your life to reflect on and write a journal entry.

Activity: Analysing a Source

Below is a letter to Gurindji elder and strike leader Vincent Lingiari from school students to raise money to support the Gurindji Wave Hill walk-off, 1968. (Source: National Archives of Australia. A1734, NT1968/2509)

Students will read the letter and respond to the questions below.

- When was the letter written?
- Who wrote the letter? Who was the letter for?
- What information was included in the letter?
- Why did they write the letter? What was the aim of the letter?
- How do you think Vincent Lingiari felt as she read the letter? Give reasons for your answer.
- Is this letter a primary or secondary source? Explain your answer.



Letter to Vincent Lingiari ([ABC Education](#))

Activity: Poetry

Poetry and lyrics – feel, think and wonder

As a class, listen to Paul Kelly's song "[From Little Things, Big Things Grow](#)". Alternatively take it in turns to read the [song lyrics](#) aloud.

In small groups respond to the following questions and then share your ideas with the class.

- Who are the main people and groups mentioned in the song?
- What events are being described? Why are they important?
- What emotions or messages do you think the artist wants to share?
- How does this song make you feel? Describe your emotions.
- Why is the meaning of the song title "*From Little Things, Big Things Grow*"? Write a short summary.

Further investigation

- Can you think of other songs that help us understand Australian history? Make a list.
- Choose one of the following songs, or choose one of your own, and conduct further research to find out what the song is about. Create a book of songs and background information to keep in your school library.

Song	Background
<i>"Treaty"</i> By Yothu Yindi	
<i>"Took the Children Away"</i> By Archie Roach	
<i>"Beds Are Burning"</i> By Midnight Oil	

Activity: Visual Literacy

Aboriginal land rights was an issue that Gough Whitlam tackled while he was Prime Minister. On August 16, 1975, Gough Whitlam returned traditional lands in the Northern Territory to the Gurindji people. This brought an end to their long struggle to reclaim their traditional country. The ceremony to officially hand back the land to the Gurindji people took place on August 16th, 1975, at Daguragu. Whitlam made a short speech before taking some sand and pouring it into the hands of Vincent Lingiari, the leader of the protest movement.

Show students the image of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pouring soil into the hand of traditional landowner Vincent Lingiari. Hold a class discussion, responding to the following questions.

- What is happening in this photo?
- Why is this photograph symbolic? Consider that it is a reminder that all Australians share the same land and the same hopes.
- How does this image make you feel? Describe your emotions.



Learn more about land rights by watching BTN's [Mabo Day](#) and [Native Title](#) stories.

Examine further images -



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[National Museum Australia](#)

Useful Websites

- [Vincent Lingiari the Leader](#) – ABC Education
- [Native Title](#) – BTN
- [Wave Hill Walk-Off](#) – National Museum Australia
- [Wave Hill Walk-Off \(classroom resource\)](#) – National Museum Australia
- [What's special about Wave Hill? \(learning module\)](#) – National Museum Australia
- [This Day Tonight: Two years after the 1966 Wave Hill walk-off](#) – ABC Education



Teacher Resource

Book Week

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 year did Book Week begin?
2. Why was the Children's Book Council of Australia created?
3. What decade did a boom in Australian children's books being published start?
4. What percent of 8- to 18-year-olds are reading books in their spare time?
 - a. 18%
 - b. 38%
 - c. 58%
5. What is your favourite genre of book? Why?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Book Week story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to start the discussion:

- What makes an interesting, engaging, entertaining story? Brainstorm a list.
- What is your favourite book at the moment? Tell a classmate about the book you are reading and what you like about it.
- What book has made the biggest impact on you? Explain why.
- Peter Hellier, the author interviewed in the BTN story, said reading makes the world a bigger place. What do you think he means by this, and do you agree?
- How do you celebrate Book Week?
- If you could create your own Book Week theme, what would it be?



EPISODE 23

19 August 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will create their own creative story. Students will develop storylines, characters and settings.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 4

Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories engaging by the way they develop character, setting and plot tensions.

Create and edit literary texts by developing storylines, characters and settings.

English – Year 5

Create and edit literary texts, experimenting with figurative language, storylines, characters and settings from texts students have experienced.

English – Year 6

Create and edit literary texts that adapt plot structure, characters, settings and/or ideas from texts students have experienced, and experiment with literary devices.

English – Year 7

Create and edit literary texts that experiment with language features and literary devices encountered in texts.

Activity: Glossary

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

AUTHOR	CHARACTER	FICTION
NARRATIVE	PLOT	GENRE

Activity: How to Build Stories

Students will write their own short story. As a class, make a list of useful tips for story writing. Include tips on how to build character development, plot tension and narrative. The ABC Education's Digibook explains how to build your own stories, using tricks to create exciting characters, plots, settings, genres and language.

- [How to build Stories](#)
- [Creating Characters](#)
- [Understanding Story Plots](#)
- [Genre and setting](#)
- [Language](#)



More resources to help students write stories.

[Ways to tell stories](#) – Young writers Noa and Francis discuss choices they made when writing their published short stories.

[Thinking about story themes](#) – Noa and Francis talk about the main ideas they chose to explore in their stories.

[Writing from experiences](#) – Learn where student writers Noa and Francis found the ideas for their stories.

[Young authors' creative writing advice](#) – Watch these two students talk about the advice given to them that helps them to write better stories.

[Writing tips from author Andy Griffiths](#) – Watch this video and learn how to write funny stories with tips from author Andy Griffiths.

[Story Starters](#) – Creative Writing Prompts.

Activity: Book Review

Students will choose a book they have read this year or a [Book of the Year winner for 2025](#) and write their own book review. Students will respond to the following:

- Title of the book and author.
- What genre is the book? (mystery, fantasy, adventure)
- Write a concise description of the plot.
- Who are the main characters in the book? Choose a character to describe in more detail.
- Where and when is the story set?
- What are the themes in the book?
- What did you like or dislike about the book?
- Would you recommend the book to other kids your age? Why or why not?
- How many stars would you give it out of 5?
- Write a letter to the author of the book explaining your views on the book and asking any questions you have about the book.

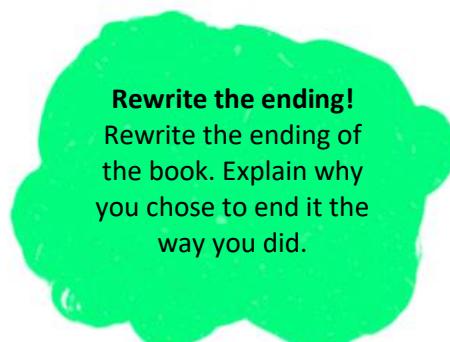
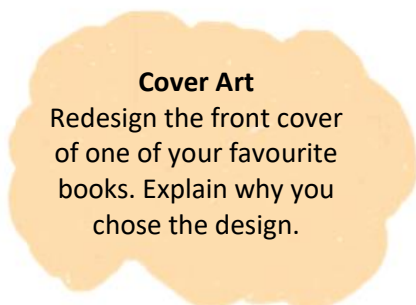
Activity: Book Club

Hold your own class book club! Students will read the same book, either individually or as a class and discuss the story in small groups. Below are some discussion starters for your class book club:

- What did you like about the book? Was there anything you didn't like? Explain why.
- Who was your favourite character in the book? What did you like about them?
- Imagine what the character looks like and draw a picture of the character. Compare with other student's drawings.

Activity: Choose a Project

Students choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their work to a partner, small group or the class.



Useful Websites

- [Children's Book Week](#) – The Children's Book Council of Australia
- [Young Author](#) – BTN
- [Pitjantjatjara Book](#) - BTN
- [History of libraries](#) - BTN



Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 23 – 19/8/2025

Yaama I'm Jack Evans and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. We uncover the story behind this famous photo, learn about First Nations seasons and find out the history of Book Week.

What is Statehood?

Reporter: Tatenda Chibika

INTRO: But first, the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced that Australia will join other countries in recognising Palestine as an independent state. So, what does that mean? Tatenda found out.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: Australia will recognise the state of Palestine. Australia will recognise the right of the Palestinian people to a state of their own. We will work with the international community to make this right a reality.

TATENDA CHIBIKA, REPORTER: That's the moment our Prime Minister said Australia would recognise Palestine as an independent state at the upcoming United Nations General assembly next month. It's something other countries, including France and Canada, have said they'll be doing too. So, what does that mean exactly?

To be considered an independent state under international law a place needs to have its own land or territories with defined borders, it needs to have people who permanently live there, have a working government and it has to be able to talk and make deals with other countries. Once a place meets all those rules, it can ask to be recognised by other independent states and countries.

But a big step in becoming an independent state is being fully recognised by the United Nations. To do that you first need to get approval from at least nine members of the UN's Security Council. That's a group of countries responsible for maintaining international peace and security. But even then, that tick of approval can still be blocked by one of the Security Council's five permanent members Russia, China, the UK, the US and France.

If the Security Council approves, the decision then goes to the UN's General Assembly where at least two thirds of the UN's 193 members have to agree to make it official. Yeah, it's a pretty complex process which is why we've only seen a handful of countries recognised by the UN in recent years like South Sudan and Montenegro. Others like Kosovo are only 'partially' recognised which means they have some recognition but not enough to become a full member state at the UN. Right now, Palestine is recognised by more than 140 countries - that's more than two thirds of the UN General Assembly.

So, why hasn't it become a UN member state yet? Well, it came pretty close last year when 12 members of the Security Council voted in favour of it.

VANESSA FRAZIER, AMBASSADOR OF MALTA, APRIL 2024 UNSC PRESIDENT: I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

But the US, a close ally to Israel, used its special powers to block Palestine from becoming a member state.

VANESSA FRAZIER: Those against?

At the time, the U.S said Palestine and Israel needed to come to an agreement on their own first.

Throughout the years, there have been attempts to figure out a way for both Palestine and Israel to exist peacefully alongside each other but that hasn't happened yet. And now Israel has said that recognising Palestine as an independent state would be rewarding Hamas the group in charge of Gaza which was responsible for the terror attacks on October 7th, 2023.

But the Palestinian Authority which governs parts of the West Bank says Hamas won't have a role in any future state of Palestine which will exist peacefully alongside Israel. Australia, like the US, had previously said that it wanted Israel and Palestine to figure out things by themselves first but because of how the war has been going the Australian government is worried that if it continues to wait, there might not be a Palestinian state to recognise.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: There has been too many lives lost, both Israeli's and Palestinians and the world is saying we need a solution to this conflict, we need to end the cycle of violence and the way to do that is to have a two-state solution.

News Quiz

Russia's President Vladimir Putin stepped foot on American Soil for the first time in a decade to meet with US President Donald Trump. What state did they meet in? Alabama, Alaska or Arizona? It's Alaska. The two leaders met to discuss a way to end the war in Ukraine but weren't able to make any final agreements.

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT: There were many, many points that we agreed on. Most of them, I would say, a couple of big ones, that we haven't quite got there, but we've made some headway. There's no deal until there's a deal.

A lot of people criticised the two world leaders for not including Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the meeting. But that didn't seem to worry Mr Trump who said the meeting was a success and Mr Putin even invited the US President to meet up again in Russia.

DONALD TRUMP: We'll see you again very soon. Thank you very much, Vladimir.

VLADIMIR PUTIN, RUSSIAN PRESIDENT: Next time in Moscow.

DONALD TRUMP: Oh, that's an interesting one. No, no, no. I'll get a little heat on that one.

Last week thousands of people marked the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. What does VJ Day commemorate? The victory of Allied forces in Europe, the surrender of Japan and the end of World War II or the dropping of the first atomic bomb? VJ Day or Victory over Japan day commemorates the surrender of Japan and the end of World War II on the 15th of August 1945. Around the world, and here in Australia, people marked the anniversary with ceremonies remembering those who fought in the war.

REPORTER: Who will you be remembering today?

VETERAN: Oh, a lot of fellows that I knew that never made it home.

Scientists in the UK have created toothpaste that includes which of these ingredients? Hair, eye lashes or fingernails? Yeah, they're all a bit random and gross but the answer is hair. According to scientists from King's College in London, hair could be the key to good oral health because it contains a protein called Keratin which they say when mixed with saliva forms a crystal-like protective coating similar to enamel.

And Swifties rejoice because Taylor Swift has announced her 12th Studio album. It's called life of a show what? Is it show pony, show girl or show bag? It's Life of a Showgirl and it'll be released October 3rd.

Vincent Lingiari

Reporter: Joseph Baronio

INTRO: Now to this very famous photograph. It was taken 50 years ago and depicts a really significant moment in Australian history. Joe found out about the story behind it.

On the 16th of August 1975, this famous photo was taken. It shows the former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pouring sand into the hand of Aboriginal leader Vincent Lingiari. A simple gesture that symbolised handing the land at Wave Hill in the Northern Territory back to the Gurindji people. But the journey to get there was far from simple.

It started back in the 1960s. At the time, Wave Hill was the biggest cattle station in the world, controlled by British landowner Lord Vestey. The Gurindji people, who had lived on the land for generations, worked for Vestey, but they weren't paid fairly, and conditions were tough.

NEWS REPORTER: The station's 100 aboriginal stockmen, with their 100 dependents, are camped in the dry bed of the Victoria River with little shade from 90-degree heat, dust and flies.

Eventually, Gurindji leader Vincent Lingiari said it was time to act.

VINCENT LINGIARI: I said, "What was it before Lord Vestey born and I was born?" It was blackfella country.

So, on August 23rd, 1966, Mr Lingiari and his fellow Aboriginal workers went on strike. It became known as the Wave Hill Walk Off. They moved their camp away from the Wave Hill station to a sacred site called Daguragu on Wattie Creek. They wanted to set up their own cattle station, and said they wouldn't move until their land was returned to them.

For years, petitions and negotiations went on between the Gurindji people, the NT Administration, and the Australian Government in Canberra.

CLAPPERS: 31. 32. 33.

DAVID QUINN, ABSCOL: Well, it's basic justice that their land is recognised.

PROTESTORS: Equal rights!

As the news spread across the country, thousands of Aussies joined the campaign, including the leader of the Labor Party, Gough Whitlam, who made this promise during his 1972 election campaign.

GOUGH WHITLAM: We will legislate to give Aborigines land rights. Not just because their case is beyond argument, but because all of us as Australians are diminished, while the Aborigines are denied their rightful place in this nation.

Later that year, Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister.

(Song From Little Things Big Things Grow, Song by Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly, 1993)

From little things big things grow,

from little things big things grow...

But it wasn't until 1975, 9 years after the Wave Hill Walk Off started, that he followed through with his promise.

*Eight years went by, eight long years of waiting
'Til one day a tall stranger appeared in the land
And he came with lawyers and he came with great ceremony*

GOUGH WHITLAM: I solemnly hand to you these deeds as proof in Australian law that these lands belong to the Gurindji people.

And through Vincent's fingers poured a handful of sand

From little things big things grow

50 years on, and The Wave Hill Walk Off is seen as a pivotal moment in Australia's history. It led to significant legal and social changes for First Nations people, which is something many agree is worth celebrating.

First Nations Seasons

Reporter: Saskia Mortarotti

INTRO: Recently, Melbourne's Lord Mayor suggested ditching the four-season calendar that most of us are familiar with and adopting a six-season Wurundjeri calendar instead saying it gives a better description of what the weather's actually like there. Sas found out more about the different seasonal calendars used by First Nations people.

SASKIA MORTAROTTI, REPORTER: Right now, in most of the country, it's pretty cold.

COLD GIRL: Think of somewhere warm. What? It's 32 degrees in Darwin in the middle of winter?

But ah, yeah. There are some places where it's, well, quite warm. Which makes you wonder whether the weather actually matches the seasons. You see, Australia is pretty big, and we have lots of different weather patterns. Which is something First Nations people have tracked for thousands of years with their own seasonal calendars.

KARL WINDA TELFER, CULTURAL CREATIVE KANYANYAPILLA: Why have we got four seasons when you know that don't make any sense here. It doesn't relate to the country here.

This is Karl Telfer. He's an artist and storyteller who produced the Kuri Kurru exhibition at the Museum of Discovery in Adelaide that explores the 6 different seasons of the Kurna Meyunna.

SASKIA MORTAROTTI: So, how do you know when you're in one of those six seasons?

KARL WINDA TELFER: Well, there are stars that rise. So, you know, there are certain stars, like in Parnatti, for example. There's a star called Parna, and we know what that star is. So, that talks to us about, okay, the time now is going to be cold on the ground.

First Nations calendars like the Kurna one don't just tell us what's happening with the weather; they're also used to track when certain plants and animals are around.

KARL WINDA TELFER: It teaches you about what plants you can, you know, what you can eat what you can't and all that what is ready certain times a year and fruit everything, bird shows you the right time to eat the fruit, perfect time, if you try and go get them the next week they're gone.

Karl says we can also use these calendars to see how the environment has changed over time.

KARL WINDA TELFER: Kudlilla is the season we're in now and Kudlilla that talks about like the rain but we're not having enough rain these days, well, these times. And this is due to climate and the climate changing.

There are many different First Nations seasonal calendars around the country. Like Ngan'gi calendar from the Northern Territory which has 13 seasons that follow the life cycle of the native spear grass. Or the Wurundjeri Calendar in Victoria which has 6 seasons. And recently, Melbourne's Lord Mayor, Nicholas Reece, said Melbourne, or Naarm, would be better off adopting the Wurundjeri calendar because it's more in tune to what's happening with the weather. Something many, including Karl, think we should be doing right across the country.

KARL WINDA TELFER: I'm talking about the English four seasons. So, this is totally different systems that we're talking about and weather patterns and currents and all sorts of different things, because it's the sea country too. So, my question is, well, why do we have that? If that doesn't work, you know?

Quiz

How many seasons are there in the Tiwi Island Calendar? 1, 2 or 3? It's 3, although they also have 13 minor seasons.

Book Week

Reporter: Wren Gillett

INTRO: This week, kids across Australia have been dressing up as their favourite characters to celebrate Book Week. Wren finds out why Book Week began 80 years ago and why it's still important today for getting young Aussies into reading.

STUDENT: I read an hour every night, maybe even two hours some nights.

STUDENT: My favourite book series are the Harry Potter series and the Keeper of the Lost City series.

STUDENT: Probably Bad Guys and Weirdo.

STUDENT: I like the Amulet, I've been reading that.

STUDENT: I love reading Dork Diaries and Exploding Endings.

Whether it's Fantasy, mystery, history - whatever you're into. Book week is a time to celebrate, well, books.

STUDENT: Me and my friends are dressing up as Inside Out.

STUDENT: I was thinking SpongeBob.

STUDENT: I'm dressing up as Winnie the Pooh and it's just a fun way to express what kind of books you like.

And guess what, book week has actually been a thing for many, many years.

WREN GILLETT, REPORTER: Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, literacy lovers noticed a problem.

The year was 1945. The second World War had just ended, and kids were mainly reading books from overseas, in particular the UK. Because, at the time, there weren't many Aussie authors writing books for children.

WREN GILLETT: So, a group of passionate teachers, librarians, booksellers, publishers, and book-loving volunteers, decided to create what we now know as The Children's Book Council of Australia. Familiar logo, right?

Together, they launched book week, all in an effort to get Aussie kids' reading more. And it seemed to work. The 1960s saw a boom in Australian children's books being published.

REPORTER: How many books do you read a week?

STUDENT: Well, it really depends on the week. If there's exams, I might read only one or two. But if there's no exams and if I've got plenty of time, I might read up to five or six.

WREN GILLETT: But today, it's a slightly different story.

Studies show that less than one in five eight to 18-year-olds are reading in their free time, and that only one in three actually enjoy reading for fun.

WREN GILLETT: Why do you reckon we're seeing this trend?

STUDENT: People are getting sucked into screens and they're like spending hours just scrolling through TikTok and stuff, and they're getting so attached to it that they don't feel the need to pick up books and read them.

Yeah, there's a lot of different things competing for our attention these days, but many think books are still worth our time.

PETER HELLIER, AUSSIE COMEDIAN AND AUTHOR: Books are the exact opposite of boring. And if you think they're boring, I'm sorry, but you're wrong.

This is Peter Hellier, he's a pretty famous Aussie comedian, actor, and the author behind these books. And he's just released another one called Detective Galileo, about a trail horse who dreams of solving crimes.

PETER HELLIER: He joins the police force and quickly finds out that the horses don't actually solve the crimes, it's the police officers who solve the crime. So he promptly gets thrown out of the force and begins his own detective agency, which I'm reliably told is the only detective agency in the world run by a horse.

Peter actually started writing books when he was a kid.

PETER HELLIER: I started writing when I was six, seven, eight years old. In fact, I started my own publishing company called Better Books. And I would write these books, and then I would get a parent or one of my parents or teachers to type them up. And I would read them in front of the class. And, you see, each has the logo, the Better Books logo, there it is - the famous Better Books logo.

WREN GILLETT: You weren't mucking around.

PETER HELLIER: There all on all of them. There we go. There we go.

Many, including Peter, say there's plenty to get from a good book. They help us learn new words and phrases, get a better understanding of the world around us, and strengthen our imaginations.

PETER HELLIER: Books can take you absolutely anywhere. They can take you to countries that you never dreamed about going. Countries that exist, countries that don't exist. Reading just makes the world a much bigger place.

It's why for the past 80 years, schools around the country have been taking part in book week.

STUDENT: Reading is a place where you can have your own world just to yourself.

STUDENT: It's like watching a movie inside your head, but you can choose how it goes.

STUDENT: Picking up a book is a good idea, maybe you should start with something that you're interested with and then you can start exploring from there.

Quiz

What is the title of the book that took out this year's Book of the year Award for younger readers? It's *Laughter is the Best Ending* by Maryam Master. Some other winners included *I'm not really here* by Gary Loneborough which took out book of the year for older readers and best picture book went to *The Truck Cat*, by Deborah Frenkel.

Sport

Australia's men's national basketball team - the Boomers - have won their third Asia Cup in a row, with an epically narrow victory over China.

COMMENTATOR: It is Australia who are celebrating!

China started strong, leading 25-17 at quarter time. But Aussie Xavier Cooks led a fierce comeback, shooting 30 points and collecting nine rebounds, earning him the title of MVP. And there seriously couldn't have been a tighter finish. Just as the final buzzer went off, China missed a shot that would have won them the game, leaving Australia with a 90-89 victory.

COMMENTATOR: An unbelievable finish.

The 2025 AFLW season kicked off last week, and so did a new trick. Yeah, 19-year-old Ash Centra from Collingwood, pulled out this move in the warm-up before their season-opener to Carlton, and since then, a lot of people have been trying to do it, with some success, kind of?

FOOTY PLAYER: No, I'm not doing it on camera.

But despite the epic warmup, Carlton did end up beating Collingwood by 24 points.

Now, the moves from these athletes in China weren't quite so graceful but give 'em a break, okay, they're robots. For the first time ever, humanoid robots from all over the world, competed in their very own games, which featured, soccer, boxing, running, and ahh, lots of falling over. Lots. Luckily though, they did bring their own cheer squad.

Young Rapper

Reporter: Rylie

INTRO: Finally, we're going to meet another winner of this year's Heywire competition - which asks young people in regional areas to share their stories. Rylie's going to tell us how music helped to transform his life. Check it out.

Mum and I were homeless. We lived at a caravan park, in motels and tents around Warrnambool. It wasn't pretty. I'm First Nations, and I remember feeling like, my own country is failing me right now. So, we camped right along here. I remember pitching a tent right here and this was actually around the same time I started to get into music which was a good way for me to have something to look forward to.

I was raised by the SoundCloud era, listening to a lot of trap music. When I was in school, I'd rap along to songs by Juice World, then I started to make my own. My first track was recorded on my phone. It was bad but a lot of fun to make.

Some kids in my school heard it and shamed me. That put me off music for the next couple of years, until a friend of mine bought a microphone and encouraged me to give it another go. There was something about that mic and the energy of the crew around me that gave me confidence. It lit a fire in me. Over time, I was able to focus my flow.

My songs are about escapism, living the life, being a success. I rap about stuff that takes me to a better place in my head. I'm manifesting my future. My stage name is Hundo Milli, it's short for hundreds of millions. Money's not really the end goal; it's more about having the freedom to dream big. Mum taught me to never stop believing. Even when times were tough, she kept pushing for us to get housing and eventually we did. We're some of the lucky ones. Today, I'm in a Melbourne studio recording my next single. I remember living in my tent dreaming about this very moment and now I'm here, doing what I love. Ain't nothing going to stop me.

Closer

Well, that's all we've got for you today, but we'll be back before you know it. In the meantime, you can head to our website, there's plenty to see and do. You can also catch Newsbreak every weeknight and there's BTN High for all you highschoolers out there. Have an awesome week and I'll see you next time. Bye.