



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.

Cyclone Alfred

1. Which states were impacted by ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred?
2. How many years has it been since Brisbane was hit by a cyclone?
 - a. 11
 - b. 31
 - c. 51
3. Cyclone Alfred was downgraded to a tropical low. True or false?
4. In your own words, describe the damage caused by ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred.
5. What questions do you have about this story?

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

Cyclone Kids

1. How were the kids in the BTN story feeling about Cyclone Alfred?
2. What did they do to prepare for the cyclone?
3. What concerns did the kids have?
4. How did this story make you feel?
5. What did you learn watching this story?

US Influence

1. Volodymyr Zelenskyy is the president of which country?
2. Why was the meeting between President Trump and President Zelenskyy an important one?
3. What decision did President Trump make after the meeting?
4. What is the term used to describe the period since 1945 when there haven't been any major wars between the world's major powers?
 - a. Long armistice
 - b. Long harmony
 - c. Long peace

EPISODE 6

11 March 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.

5. What three things did you learn watching this story?

Space Capsule Return

1. What did the Varda W-2 capsule orbit on its journey?
2. What experiment did the Varda W-2 capsule do in orbit?
 - a. Growing plants
 - b. Harvesting water
 - c. Producing medicines
3. The W-2 is the first commercial spacecraft ever to land in Australia. True or false?
4. Why is Australia the perfect place to launch and land spacecraft?
5. What was surprising about the BTN story?

Pearl Gibbs

1. Summarise the BTN story. Share your summary with another student.
2. Which protest did Pearl help to organise in 1938?
3. What was the result of the 1967 Referendum?
4. What will Pearl Gibbs be remembered for?
5. If you could meet Pearl Gibbs and ask her a question, what would it be?

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



Teacher Resource

Cyclone Alfred

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. Which states were impacted by ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred?
2. How many years has it been since Brisbane was hit by a cyclone?
 - a. 11
 - b. 31
 - c. 51
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4. In your own words, describe the damage caused by ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred.
5. What questions do you have about this story?

Please note: Talking about natural disasters may be upsetting for some children and may cause some discomfort, distress and/or anxiety. Here is some information on how to talk to children about cyclones and upsetting news.

- UNICEF has created a [guide about how to talk to children about natural disasters](#).
- [Kids Helpline](#) has some information to help children cope with natural disasters.
- BTN has a short video about [Upsetting News](#).

Activity: Class Discussion

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

- What are tropical cyclones?
- Where in Australia do they occur?
- How can people prepare for cyclones?
- What impact do cyclones have on people and places?
- Think of three questions you have about the BTN story.



EPISODE 6

11 March 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about cyclones in Australia and the impact they have.

CURRICULUM

Geography – Year 5

The impact of bushfires or floods on environments and communities, and how people can respond.

Geography – Year 7

Causes, impacts and responses to an atmospheric or hydrological hazard.

Science – Year 5 & 6

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Activity: Key words

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



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: Cyclone Research

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

- What is a cyclone and how does it form? Draw a diagram to show how a cyclone forms.
- Where in Australia do cyclones occur? Why? Create a map to show the regions in Australia affected by cyclones.
- How can people prepare for and reduce the impact of cyclones?
- What damage can cyclones cause?
- How do cyclones affect people? Divide your response into the following categories: houses, services, and emotions. What are the immediate and long-term needs of people?
- What tools help scientists to detect and categorise cyclones?
- How are cyclones tracked and measured?
- How do cyclone warnings help people prepare? Why is the early detection of cyclones important? Investigate how people can prepare for a cyclone and create a survival plan. Visit the [ABC Emergency website](#) to help write your plan.
- Why and how are cyclone names chosen? Watch this ABC Education video – [How to name a cyclone](#), to learn more.



Further investigation – Cyclone Tracy

Cyclone Tracy was a powerful tropical cyclone that hit Darwin on Christmas Eve in 1974. Students will learn more about the impact Cyclone Tracy had on the people and city of Darwin. Watch [this video](#) to see the destruction the cyclone caused.

- How did Cyclone Tracy affect the city of Darwin in December 1974?
- What lessons were learned from the devastation of Cyclone Tracy and how to prepare for disasters?
- How did the damage caused by Cyclone Tracy influence building codes and cyclone resistant design in Australia?

Activity: Cyclone Categories

The strength of a cyclone is expressed in categories. In Australia, category five cyclones are the strongest, bringing the most destructive winds. Students will investigate the different cyclone category ratings including wind gusts and the effects on people and the environment. Watch this [Tropical Cyclone Categories video](#) to learn more.

Category	Estimated wind gusts (km/h)	Effects on people and the environment
		
		
		
		
		

Activity: Visual Literacy

In this activity students will analyse a range of images which show the damage caused by ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred in Queensland and New South Wales recently. Students will choose one or more of the images below and respond to the following:

- What is happening in the image? Create a caption for each image.
- How does the image make you feel?
- What does the image tell you about the impact cyclones and floods have on a community?
- What questions do you have about what you see in the image?



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)



[ABC News](#)

Useful Websites

- [Cyclones Explained](#) – BTN
- [Tropical cyclone knowledge centre](#) – BOM
- [Here's everything you need to know about cyclones](#) – ABC News
- [Understanding Floods](#) – Bureau of Meteorology
- [Floods](#) – Geoscience Australia



Teacher Resource

Pearl Gibbs

Women's History Month

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. Summarise the BTN story. Share your summary with another student.
2. Which protest did Pearl Gibbs help to organise in 1938?
3. What was the result of the 1967 Referendum?
4. What will Pearl Gibbs be remembered for?
5. If you could meet Pearl Gibbs and ask her a question, what would it be?

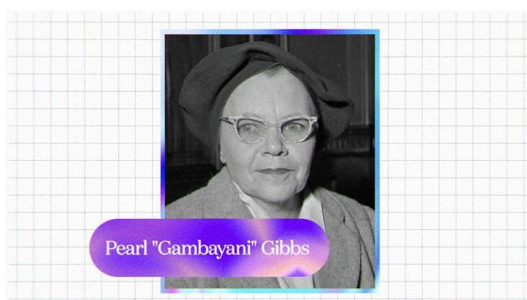
Activity: Brainstorming

Before watching the BTN Pearl Gibbs story, students will brainstorm a list of significant Australian women. This activity can be done as a class or in smaller groups. The list can include famous Australian women or there might be an important woman in the students' lives that has achieved something significant.

Activity: Personal Response

Respond to the BTN Pearl Gibbs story as a class. Students will complete one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- Pearl Gibbs is an important Australian because...
- It was interesting to learn...
- These are five words that I would use to describe Pearl Gibbs ...
- This story made me feel...
- It is important to celebrate Pearl Gibbs because...



EPISODE 6

11 March 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will recognise and celebrate Australian women who have made significant positive changes in 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 5 and 6

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

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

History – Year 6

The contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society since Federation.

HASS – Year 7

Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

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

Activity: Vocabulary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Pearl Gibbs story. Below are some words to get them started. As a class discuss the meaning of each word/terminology and how it relates to Pearl Gibbs and her story.

First Nations peoples

Mourning Protest

Activist

1967 Referendum

Advocacy

Equality

Indigenous Rights

Constitution

Further Investigation

- Students will add to their glossary by downloading the transcript for the BTN Pearl Gibbs story and highlight all the words that relate to the topic.
- What is advocacy? Ask students to give an example of when Pearl Gibbs was an advocate on Indigenous issues.

Activity: Timeline Poster

Students will research the life and achievements of Pearl Gibbs. Students will create a timeline poster and prepare an oral presentation summarising key events in Pearl Gibbs' life and her contributions to society.

Timeline Poster

Your students' task is to create a timeline poster, responding to the following areas of research.

Research

- Early Life - Information about your significant person's parents. When/where was your significant person born? What type of education did your significant person receive?
- Family - Personal information; Was your significant person married? Did they have children?
- Legacy - What event and/or action led to them becoming a significant person in Australia's History? What did they do that had an impact on the lives of others?
- 'Where are they now?' If your significant person has died, you can outline where they are buried. If they are still alive you can outline what their life looks like now.
- 2 x 'Interesting Facts' and 2 x 'Did You Know?'
- A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 photos with captions.
- Include a bibliography on the back of your poster.

Oral Presentation

Students will prepare a short oral presentation, speaking in 'first person'. They will speak about their life, their family, character, the decisions they made and why, and their impact and influence on society.

Activity: Who inspires you?

Class Discussion

Start the lesson by asking students which women past or present inspire them. It could be women they know in their family, the wider community or someone well-known.

- Which woman in your life do you look up to? Why?
- Which woman in your life inspires you?
- Think about a time a woman in your life helped you solve a problem. What was the problem, and how did she help you solve it?
- Think of a list of women trailblazers.
- What have people that are trailblazers got in common? Think of a list of traits.



Activity: Research Project

In this activity students will recognise and celebrate Australian women who have made significant positive changes in society and understand the importance of their contributions. Ask students to brainstorm and list the names of individuals they know or have heard of who have made significant positive changes in society. Encourage them to think about different areas such as civil rights, environmental conservation, science, and more.

Start a class discussion using the following questions:

- Can you think of women, past or present, who have made a positive change in society? Think of people that inspire you or are your role models.
- What qualities make this person special?
- How did their actions make a difference?
- What are some common characteristics and actions of people that are changemakers?
- Who inspires you? Why?

Direct your students to the [BTN](#) website to find stories of trailblazing Australian women who've made an extraordinary contribution to society, including:

- [Dame Nellie Melba](#) – Opera Singer
- [Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue](#) – Indigenous rights advocate
- [Elizabeth Kenny](#) – Nurse who developed treatment for Polio
- [Nancy Bird Walton](#) – Aviation pioneer
- [Dorothy Hill](#) – Scientist
- [Edith Cowan](#) – Social reformer and politician
- [Faith Bandler](#) – Civil rights activist
- [Evonne Goolagong Cawley](#) – Tennis legend

Or visit the [ABC Fierce Girls](#) website to learn more about Australian women who dare to do things differently. From athletes to aviators, scientists to spies. From the deep blue sea to the dark, black skies. Students will choose one trailblazing Australian woman they find inspiring and research and record information about the person. Some possible areas of research include:

- When and where were they born? Describe their family life growing up.
- What are some of their achievements? Choose one to explore in more detail.
- What inspired or motivated them?
- What are some of their values?
- What were some challenges they faced?
- How did they make an impact on people's lives?
- What do you admire about them?

Students will use a range of primary and secondary sources during their research including biographies, articles, letters, speeches, artworks, photographs, and news stories. To extend learning in this activity students will choose one of the following projects to complete.

Biography

Create a biography about the person, which includes a timeline of important events in their life.

What are some of the key events in their life?
Write a summary for one key event, which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Creative Writing

Who inspires you?

Write an original story (approx. 500-800 words) about an Australian girl, boy, woman or man you admire most.

They could be someone famous already, or someone you think the world should know more about!

Portrait

Plan and create a portrait of the person or group. Think about the expressions, symbolism, and colours that reflect the person, their values, and their impact. Explore and experiment with different techniques and mediums to produce a portrait.

Present your portrait to the class, introducing who the person is, the impact they had and then explain your portrait and what each of the elements in the portrait mean. Organise a class exhibition of your artworks to share with the school and local community.

Podcast

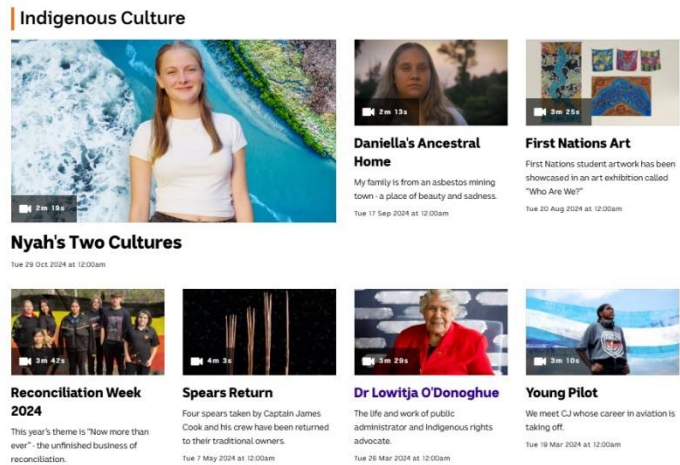
Write stories about people doing inspirational things in your community. Create a podcast using [PodOmatic](#), [Buzzsprout](#) to share your stories with the school community.

Activity: BTN Stories

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and issues.

After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).

[Collection of BTN stories about Indigenous culture](#)



Activity: International Women's Day

The theme for International Women's Day 2025 is "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

How does your school honour and celebrate the achievements of women and girls?

March Forward for Gender Equality in Your School this International Women's Day – [How your school can get involved](#).



March Forward for Gender Equality in Your School this International Women's Day
(Source: [UN Women Australia](#))

Useful Websites

- [Pearl Mary Gibbs Aboriginal rights activist \(1901–1983\)](#) – NSW Government (Blue Plaques program)
- [Indigenous Australians' right to vote](#) – National Museum Australia
- ['Our vote = our future' \(Digital Classroom\)](#) – National Museum Australia
- [The 1938 Day of Mourning](#) – AIATSIS



Teacher Resource

BTN Transcript: Episode 6- 11/3/2025

Yaama, I'm Jack and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. We find out about the White House meeting that shocked the world, get a close up look at a capsule that's come back from space and learn about the life and legacy of Pearl Gibbs.

Cyclone Alfred

Reporter: Nat Kelly

INTRO: But first today, to ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred. All last week people were getting ready for the storm as it tracked towards southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales and on the weekend it made landfall. Here's Nat to fill you in.

NAT KELLY, REPORTER: Whipping wind and flooded streets. These are some of the scenes from the aftermath of ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred. Meteorologists had been keeping a close eye on the storm as it tracked along the coast. It was set to be the first cyclone to impact Brisbane since Cyclone Zoe swept through 51 years ago, and the first time New South Wales has gone on Cyclone Watch since 1990. Late last week, Queensland's premier announced that public transport would be suspended, and more than a thousand schools would close. Lots of supermarkets shut up shop as well, as residents did what they could to prepare their homes, and their communities, for the cyclone.

MARK RYAN, CITY OF GOLD COAST: Highly recommend by 6 or 7 o'clock tonight that you have found your place of shelter and you start to begin to bunker down for this event.

The SES started putting out evacuation orders as weather in some areas turned sour.

PERSON: The entire roof structure has been compromised, we need to get you guys out of here.

Airports in both Queensland and northern NSW started cancelling flights, while evacuation centres began opening their doors. But as the week drew to an end, the Cyclone still hadn't made landfall; it was just hanging a couple hundred kilometres off the coast.

You see, it can be tricky business predicting cyclones. And Alfred kept getting pushed back until it finally hit on Saturday night as a tropical low. That's technically not a cyclone anymore, but it's still a serious storm and authorities were still warning people to watch out for flooding and thunderstorms. The storm messed with power infrastructure, leaving more than 300,000 homes across Queensland without power.

PERSON: We got candles, we've got gas, we've been able to cook.

DAVID CRISAFULLI, QUEENSLAND PREMIER: That's the largest ever loss of power from a natural disaster in Queensland's history.

And in some areas, even phone reception went down. On Sunday, hundreds of millimetres of rain fell on the Gold Coast and Hervey Bay in a matter of hours, causing flash flooding. And residents have been told to stay inside and away from waterways.

PERSON: We are actually in some trouble.

Further inland, in towns like Lismore with a history of flooding, people were evacuated as the river rose, but luckily, Lismore's levee has held.

ALYSSA, RESIDENT: It so far doesn't seem to be going up much since we've been here. I don't think it will. I'm hoping it won't.

As the weather begins to slow down, the big process of cleaning up can begin. Schools, shops and airports have started to re-open, and some buses in Queensland have started running again, and crews are working hard to fix broken powerlines and mobile phone services. But other areas are not quite out of the woods yet, with flood and severe weather warnings still active in parts of Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

SHANE CHELEPY, QLD DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER: I'd like to finish just by saying: more rain is coming.

And while there's some relief that Alfred wasn't as bad as it could have been, people are still being told to be careful and stay safe.

Cyclone Kids

Rookie Reporters

INTRO: Of course, it's been a pretty scary time for the many people living in the path of the storm. So, we checked in with some kids throughout the week to find out how they were getting ready and how they coped once it hit.

HARVEY: Hey everyone, my name's Harvey and I live in Bardon in Brisbane, and we're getting, like, a big cyclone coming.

CC: There's all these, like, worries about power going out, we're going to lose water supply, a bunch of stuff like that, just kind of nerve wracking.

NATE: I'm going to miss out on the opening game of the AFL season, which is, like, a really big deal.

EVE: My friends and I had been planning a sleepover for like, a little while now. But then obviously, there's the cyclone.

CHARLOTTE: The sky has been very dark and it has been super windy.

MAX: We've been trying to go to the shops to buy, like, true to the water, but all, like the batteries and everything, are sold out.

MADDIE: I filled up all the drink bottles, and they're currently in the freezer, just in case the freezer just stops working and we have to hook something else up with the generator.

CHARLOTTE: I'm helping Mum secure all the loose things in our backyard.

MAX: We've been preparing by getting lots of fruit and water and delivering some meals to our neighbours.

HARVEY: I think we're ready for the next few days coming.

HARVEY: Right guys, it's about 8:25 pm on Friday night. We've tied all our stuff up on our deck to stop it from blowing around. Currently, that's doing its trick. Tonight, my family and I will be sleeping in the

downstairs part of our house to shelter us from the wind and the rain and falling trees and tree branches.
MAX: Last night, I was really scared because the windows were shaking and we had to move to another room at midnight.

MADDIE: It just felt like the storm was just taking over everything, and I really had to just trust in my family for this one.

CHARLOTTE: Our pool was overflowing a little bit, same with this morning.

CC: Outside of our house, we have, like, a big tree. Well, our neighbour has a big tree, and like, one of the branches has snapped and come down on our garden.

HARVEY: Tropical Cyclone Alfred has turned into a category zero, so it's just a lot of wind and rain now.

MAX: We thought the cyclone was gonna be gone, but the wind and rain has been blowing everything around, so it's been pretty hard.

CC: Oh, wow, it's a tree! I don't feel the greatest about this, because if it continues raining, that means that there will be more flooding, and more likely to flood our house and flood other people's houses too, which, um, is not great.

NATE: We have lost internet, so we can't watch movies or anything like that.

MADDIE: So we just were always playing Monopoly, playing games, playing stories, and it just felt like how families describe the 80s.

MAX: I'm feeling pretty scared because I don't want it to get back up to our grass.

CC: We've nicknamed cyclone Alfred, little Alfie, because it's just a little bit less threatening, and it just kind of makes him seem like a little goober.

CHARLOTTE: It's been decades since we've had a cyclone here, because we barely ever get them. So it would kind of be good in a few years, people asking, have you ever witnessed a cyclone? We could say, yes, yes, I have.

HARVEY: Yeah guys, just stay inside, take as many precaution as you can. Don't take any risks like going outside when it's really windy.

CC: I think if we all just work together to clean everything up after what's happened and like sandbag stuff when the flooding comes to your house, it will be fine. Don't worry, everything will be okay.

News Quiz

Do you know the name of this Australian leader? It's WA premier Roger Cook – who will be keeping his job after Labor won the state election on the weekend.

ROGER COOK, WA PREMIER: Western Australia has voted for a future, a future which is made in WA.

US REPUBLICANS: USA! USA!

Last week Donald Trump delivered his first address to congress since returning to office.

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT: America is back.

What did some Democrats do to protest? Did they wear pink, hold up little signs, walk out or all of the above? They did all of those things. A number of Democrats came wearing pink to protest against what they say are that negatively affect women. Many also held up signs reading 'False' and 'This is Not Normal', while others walked out during the 100-minute long address.

Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams are set to come back to Earth this month after a trip to the ISS that was supposed to last eight days. How long did it actually last? One month, nine months or a year? It was nine months. The Boeing Starliner that they arrived on had some issues and wasn't safe for the journey home and they've been waiting for a lift.

SUNI WILLIAMS, ASTRONAUT: We're just doing what we do every day. And, you know, every day is interesting because we're up in space and it's a lot of fun.

Meanwhile Space-X has carried out the first test of its Starship rocket. Do you know what happened after take-off? Did it orbit the moon, did it land back on Earth, or did it explode? It exploded. Bits of debris were seen raining from the sky. No one was hurt and SpaceX boss Elon Musk responded with this tweet. Rockets are hard.

US Influence

Reporter: Nat Kelly

INTRO: Recently the US President shocked a lot of people when he announced a pause on aid to Ukraine, following a very awkward meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It's a huge blow to Ukraine, but it's also got some other countries worried, and some say it could be the start of a shift in the way America deals with the world. Here's Nat to explain.

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT: You don't have any cards right now. With us you start having cards.
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY, UKRAINE PRESIDENT: We're not playing cards.

As far as diplomatic meetings go— this wasn't a good one.

DONALD TRUMP: You're gambling with World War 3...
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY: What are you talking about?
DONALD TRUMP: ... you're gambling with WW3.

Donald Trump had invited Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the White House to talk about a possible deal being put forward by Ukraine which would see mineral resources being shared in exchange for help to fight the war in Ukraine.

DONALD TRUMP: Your country's in big trouble.
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY: Can I ask?
DONALD TRUMP: No, no, you've done a lot of talking. Your country's in big trouble.
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY: I know.

Since the war in Ukraine began, they've been relying on US aid and military equipment, so this meeting was really important and what happened shocked the world.

NEWSREADER: It's hard to imagine a situation which this could have gone worse.

And some see as a sign that America's place in the world may be changing.

DONALD TRUMP: I think we've seen enough, what do you think? This is going to be great television. I will say that.

You see, for the past 70 years or so, The US has played a huge role in overseas politics and conflicts. It all started at the end of World War 2. American leaders were worried about the rise of communism and the growing influence of the Soviet Union or USSR which was a collection of communist states run from Russia. And unlike its European allies who had been battered by the war, the US was in a position to do something about it.

HARRY TRUMAN, FORMER US PRESIDENT: It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

The US built up some important alliances, promising to protect other countries if they were attacked by the Soviet Union, and built up its military and its weapons until it became the most powerful in the world.

The decades that followed are sometimes known as the "Long Peace".

There were plenty of wars, but overall fewer people died in conflict.

Partly that was because the US was so powerful that just the threat of its military could persuade governments to do what it said.

Today, many countries have strong military alliances with the US. They use US made weapons and share US intelligence.

KEIR STARMER, UK PRIME MINISTER: Our security and intelligence is intertwined in a way no two other countries are.

And rely on the knowledge that America would step up and protect them if they ever needed it. But now, some are worried all of that might be changing.

DONALD TRUMP: What you're doing is very disrespectful to the country, this country.

President Trump has always said he wants to put...

DONALD TRUMP: America First.

DONALD TRUMP: This is America first now folks.

DONALD TRUMP: America first for me. It's all about America first.

He reckons the US is spending too much money on other countries and programs that "don't reflect" America's needs and values. And some are worried that America might not be interested in honouring its old alliances. If that's true it could change, well, a lot.

In the past few weeks European leaders have held emergency meetings. They've committed to spending more money on their own militaries...

URSULA VON DER LEYEN, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION: We urgently have to rearm Europe.

...and to helping Ukraine in whatever way they can. They're worried that if Russia is allowed to win the war their President, Vladimir Putin, may invade another country.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU. PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA: Vladimir Putin is a liar and a criminal and cannot be trusted.

And they want to show other countries that they can't just invade their neighbours and get away with it.

Australia's PM has also said that he would consider sending Aussie troops to Ukraine.

ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER: Now Australia stands ready to assist.

Although he also says he's committed to continue working with the US President.

ANTHONY ALBANESE: The US is an important ally of Australia. That remains the case, alliance between our nations.

So, a lot is changing. But one thing is for sure, a lot of people around the world are hoping the Long Peace can keep going a little longer.

Quiz

Do you know the name of the military treaty between the USA, Australia and New Zealand that was signed in 1951? Is it ANZUS, AUKUS or NATO? It's ANZUS - which stands for the Australia, New Zealand and United States treaty.

Space Capsule Return

Reporter: Tatenda Chibika

INTRO: Recently this little capsule made history when it became the first commercial spacecraft to land in Australia and some kids in a South Aussie community got to see the whole thing close up. Tatenda found out more about its mission and why it's exciting for our space industry.

PERSON: There it is.

PERSON: No way.

PERSON: Oh look at that.

TATENDA CHIBIKA, REPORTER: It's not very often you get to see something hurtle through the atmosphere and land in your backyard, but these kids in Koonibba got a front row seat as a space capsule came back to earth.

KID: It looks like a shooting star.

KID: It's really interesting to get see stuff that people would get to see normally and it's really cool how it came and landed so close to where we live.

That round thing behind Taylor is the Varda W-2 capsule.

GROUND CONTROL: 3, 2, 1.

It took off from California in January onboard a Space X Transporter 12 rocket and it orbited earth on its own for more than six weeks before landing at the Koonibba Test Range right here in South Australia.

And now it's at the Australian Space Discovery Agency in Adelaide where I got to have a close up look.

This capsule right here just flew from space at eight kilometres per second and this part was hotter than the surface of the sun.

And as if surviving a trip to space and back isn't impressive enough, this capsule did an important job while it was there.

JORDAN CROOM, VARDA MISSION TEAM: You can't see it from the outside, but there's a little robot inside that's performing the experiment.

The experiment was to see whether there are benefits to making drugs in space.

JORDAN CROOM: Basically, when you're in weightlessness, when you're floating around in space, can you produce something that has a different effect on a patient? Can you get a medicine that works better to the people here on Earth?

While it might seem weird, gravity does have an effect on how chemistry works and for a while, scientists up here have been experimenting with making and testing medicines.

The team behind W-2 are hoping that their orbiting robotic laboratories will be able to produce drugs that are cheaper, more effective and have fewer side effects than the ones made on earth.

JORDAN CROOM: And now we have this new switch, this new dial, where we can basically turn off gravity like a light switch, and evaluate how that affects those processes, what new innovations we can deliver to treat people here on the ground. So I think the future is sort of unbounded for us.

The W-2 is actually the first commercial spacecraft ever to land in Australia and the people in our growing space industry reckon it won't be the last.

NAIDA RASHEED, SOUTHERN LAUNCH: It's one thing to hear about all of this happening in different areas across the world and it's something we can do right here, we have the capability to do.

They say our geography with its wide, empty spaces makes Australia perfect for launching things into space and catching them when they come back down. And they're hoping missions like this will help to inspire the space scientists of the future.

NAIDA RASHEED: Kids can grow up here, go to uni here, and come and actually find something to contribute to the space industry.

KID: It gets you curious about all the different stuff that you have to do and the jobs, yeah it would be

pretty cool to do it.

Quiz

When was the first Australian-made satellite sent into space? Was it 1967, 1997 or 2017? It was way back in 1967. It took off from Woomera on rocket donated by the US and operated for five days making Australia one of the first nations to launch its own satellite.

Sport

The AFL season has kicked off, a little bit slowly. The league postponed the two opening round matches set to be played in Queensland because of the approach of tropical cyclone Alfred. The show went on in Sydney with the Hawthorn Hawks defeating the Sydney Swans in a 20 point win on Friday night. While On Sunday, The Greater Western Sydney Giants thrashed the Collingwood Magpies in a 52 point victory.

To basketball and the Bendigo Spirit has won this year's WNBL Championship Series, defeating the Townsville Fire two-nil. Spirit's Sami Whitcomb led the way in game two finishing with a game-high 26 points and managed to snag the grand final MVP as well. It's spirit's first title in 11 years.

India's cricket team has won the ICC Champions Trophy final in a four wicket victory against New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday. India was chasing 252 to win against New Zealand's Black Caps and they off strong with skipper Rohit Sharma scoring a fifty. KL Rahul's unbeaten 34 guided India across the finish line with six balls to spare. It's India's third Champions Trophy final win making them the only team to ever win the tournament three times.

And finally to the proud sporting tradition of jumping off a jetty in a costume. This is the Birdman Rally Splash, competition where people try to, umm, fly, as far as possible across the Yarra River. For most people it's really more of a jump, but winner Tony managed to actually glide for 8.8 metres. It's all for a good cause with competitors raising money for a kids cancer charity.

Women's History Month: Pearl Gibbs

Rookie Reporter: Eva

This is Pearl "Gambayani" Gibbs, a leader and activist who lived, breathed and ached for the rights of Indigenous people. She was born the same year that Australia became a nation. But the new country's new Constitution didn't recognise Pearl her mother, whose ancestors had lived here for tens of thousands of years. It said the government couldn't make laws for Aboriginal people or even count them as part of the population.

Their lives were heavily controlled by the state's Aborigines Protection Boards, which had the power to take children from their families, and control where people lived, went to school and worked.

Racism and injustice shaped Pearl's early life. She grew up with her mum and sister around Yass in New South Wales. She wasn't allowed to go to the public school and was educated at a catholic college. After school she found work as a maid where she met young women who'd been forced work for wealthy white families.

Pearl burned for change. She became an activist and in this Sydney building, helped to organise the historic

Day of Mourning protest. It took place on January 26th, 1938, on 150th anniversary of the First Fleet's arrival in Botany Bay. And helped to draw attention to the injustices of colonisation.

Pearl was charming and persuasive and when she spoke, people listened. In 1941 she became the first Indigenous woman to speak on Australian Radio. And in 1954 she became the first and only Indigenous woman to sit on the Aborigines Welfare Board in an effort to change the system from within. Then she set her sights on changing the constitution.

Pearl and her fellow activists campaigned for a referendum – a big public vote – on removing the sections that discriminated against indigenous people. And in 1967 it went ahead. More than 90 per cent of the country voted yes - the biggest 'yes' vote in Australia's history.

NEWSREADER: The result of the referendum on the Aboriginal question was a resounding triumph for the Aboriginal cause.

But Pearl's fight wasn't over. She kept campaigning and saw more changes.

GOUGH WHITLAM, FORMER PRIME MINISTER: We will legislate to give Aborigines Land Rights.

Pearl "Gambayani" Gibbs died in 1983 in Dubbo, New South Wales in a country she helped to change for the better. While the fight for justice and equality hasn't finished her legacy won't be forgotten.

Closer

Well that's it for now but we'll be back next week with more. Until then you can check out our website and keep up to date with newsbreak every weeknight right here in the studio. Have an awesome week and I'll see you next time. Bye!