

Thursday, February 1, 2024

## **Another cyclone for Queensland; China's grandpa gamer; the fake striped pyjama bird; and Gangster Granny gets a new monkey friend.**

That's what's making news, kid's style...

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Hello Queensland? Can you hear us? Are you receiving this podcast underneath all of that water? Because the rainfall that's tumbled down on you in the last 72 hours has - once again - been so epic - that large parts of the Sunshine State are either underwater, preparing for rivers to overflow or cleaning up after bouts of flash flooding.

Many schools across the state were closed again yesterday as ex-Tropical Cyclone Kirrily continued to wreak weather havoc. Good news if you're a kid who wants a day off, or if you're a duck. Not so great if it also means your bedroom is four feet under water.

AND there is the threat of more to come - with weather forecasters yesterday reporting they were keeping a careful eye on a weather system currently out at sea which MIGHT turn into yet another cyclone by as soon as next Tuesday.

That would be three cyclones in two months - with the state still reeling from Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily. How much wild weather can one state bear?

That's the same question that's being asked this week over in Perth - where a heatwave has settled over Western Australia, pushing temperatures there into the high 30s.

And Melbourne: now's not the time for you to be feeling smug with a 38 degree belter predicted for you too this coming weekend.

Which is the perfect reason for me to recite - as I like to do at least once a year - the words of the famous Dorothea Mackellar poem = My Country .. 'I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains ...

Oh - and also a good time to point you in the direction of the super excellent Squiz Kids Shortcut that Christie and I did this week on Cyclones, Hurricanes and Typhoons. The perfect explainer on these awesome weather events ... there's a link in today's episode notes or search for it in your podcasting app or via our website.

## ***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and today we've landed in China .. where the world's oldest gaming vlogger has been awarded a Guinness World Record. Eighty-eight year old grandpa Yang Binglin has made more than 70 videos of himself playing video games and posted them on the Chinese video platform Bilibili. For the One of his videos has been watched more than 2 million times. Because, as any parent of any child with access to YouTube will know - watching videos of other people playing video games is totally a thing - go figure.

And like all good grandpas - he has a message for lovers of gaming. Create a schedule and stick to it ... which is to say, play the games you love, but only do it on set days and at set times. Because you want to own the game, and not have the game own you - right?

## ***POP CULTURE CORNER***

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If you're like me and you love a Gangsta Granny, a Billionaire Boys or a good old dose of World's Worst Parents .. you'll be as excited as I am to learn that best selling kids' author David Walliams has announced a new book - and this time it will be a comic strip book. (CHEER)

The English author, whose characters include Spaceboy, Marmalade the Orange Panda and Robodog, told fans yesterday that a new character will be springing from his wild imagination in the shape of Astro-Chimp. The premise: Chump the chimpanzee sets off on a deadly-dangerous mission to orbit Earth – encountering dog space pirates and evil insects along the way.

And where his previous books have been chapter books - Astro-Chimp will be in a comic strip format - so heaps of amazing drawings to accompany all the mad-cap action. It's due to hit bookstore in May.

## ***NEWSHOUNDS***

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Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and today his nose is twitching madly following the discovery of the great fake pyjama bird meme.

Social media sites like X and Facebook were flooded in January with a photo of a bird with striking red and white stripes across its chest. It was dubbed the pyjama bird - and people marvelled that they had never seen anything like it, and that a new species had been discovered. The photo - which I've stuck a link to in today's episode notes - was liked and

shared more than 33,000 times. That's at least 33,000 people who didn't Stop, Think and Check - as Squiz-E is always reminding us to do when we come across something online that looks even vaguely suspicious. And that's 33,000 people who were tricked ... because bird experts and photo manipulation experts concluded the photo was fake and no such bird existed.

Another reason to make sure you and your class are among the 1,900 who have signed up to do Squiz Kids very own, free media literacy course 'Newshounds' .. teaching kids to spot misinformation when they come across it online. Sign up now via the link in today's episode notes or via our website: [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au)

You're welcome ...

## ***SEARCHABLE DATABASE PROMO***

Pssst ... teachers ... it's me, Bryce. I'm about to let you in on a secret that is going to make your lives do much easier ... you've heard about Classroom Companions, right? The free, levelled-literacy activity sheets tied to the podcast that Christie - Squiz Kids' very own primary school teacher creates every Monday? Well they've just got a whole lot more user-friendly - with the release this week of a searchable database. Now you can dive back into our extensive back catalogue of classroom worksheets - every single one of them curriculum-aligned - and find a worksheet that ties in with whatever you're teaching on any given day. Head to the Squiz Kids website - [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au) - or follow the link in today's episode notes. Did I mention they're free? You're very welcome.

## ***THE S'QUIZ***

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. Which country does the Guinness Book Record holding grandpa gamer come from?
2. What colour were the stripes on the fake pyjama bird?
3. What's the name of the new book coming out later this year by kids author David Walliams?

## ***SHOUT OUTS***

It's February 1st ... Pinch and a punch for the first day of the month ... birthday of Aussie cricketer Moises Henriques, AFL player Sam Gray and NRL footy player Jake Friend. Plus it's World Hijab Day - celebrating the head covering worn by many women of the Islamic faith.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Ethan from Cannon Hill and Abigail from Yamanto.

And a reminder to the Squiz Kids who celebrated a birthday in the summer holidays to check the Bumper Holiday Quiz Episode that came out the week of your birthday for your birthday shout out. And for those of you who missed that cut off we'll continue to work our way through your belated birthday shoutouts this week ... and that means...

Happy belated birthday to... Gregory from Gulgong, Vincent, Charlotte and Rosary from Goodna, Savandi, Yohita, Nash, Gautam, Victoria, Aarush and Aayush all from Forest Lake, Taylah, Spiro and Max from Warrnambool, Summer, Arthur, Ekta and Imogen from Cannon Hill, Ben from Vermont South and Joanne from Ivanhoe.

Classroom shoutouts will re-commence next week ...

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. China
2. Red and white
3. Astro Chimp