

## **Aussies win big overseas; Dubai's Iron Men take to the skies; epic dog sled race begins; and a very noisy fish.**

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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It was an all-sport weekend just gone as Aussies carved it up overseas - showing other countries how it's done.

The main event was of course the launch of the NRL season in Las Vegas - a city in the middle of the desert in the American state of Nevada.

Um ... why was the Australian rugby league season kicked off in America? It's all part of the sport's grand plans to build a new fan base in the United States - where gridiron is the football that reigns supreme. More than 40,000 people flocked to Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas to watch the Sea Eagles beat the Rabbitohs 26-24 - and then to see the Roosters beat the Broncos 20-10.

A great big desert storm swept across the sandy landscape ahead of the games, forcing a last minute scramble indoors for fans - but inside Allegiant Stadium, it was nothing but the white hot heat of rug-ba league competition.

Other Aussies overseas flying the flag for our sporting prowess was the Australian men's cricket team, who wrapped up the First Test against New Zealand in Wellington - retaining the Trans-Tasman Trophy. And Australia's own Hannah Green was showing them how it was done, on the green, winning the LGPA Tour's Women's World Championships golf tournament in Singapore. Go you good things!

### ***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 the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East - in a city called Dubai - where jet packs have been helping men fly through the air like Iron Man.

You've seen the Marvel movies, right? Where Iron Man uses propulsion jet blasters in his feet to fly? These guys have the jet blasters in their hands and jet packs on their backs, and as the video I've stuck in today's episode notes shows, they fly through the air with the greatest of ease. The fabulous flying fivesome did a circuit out over the water at downtown Dubai Marina - with the tallest building in the world, the Burj-al-Khalifa as a backdrop. Imagine how cool if they made them for kids to

get to and from school ... I bet there's more than a few mums and dads out there who'd be happy not to have to do the school drop off too

## **ANIMAL KINGDOM**

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In what is quite possibly my favourite animal race of the year, the annual Iditarod Race kicked off in Alaska at the weekend - and will take place over the next eight days or so as no fewer than 608 sled-dogs and 38 mushers race 1,600 kilometres over icy, snowy terrain from one side of Alaska to the other.

Alaska is a state of America - way up north where the winters are freezing. And each year the state stops in its tracks for a week as the annual dog sled race takes place.

Some of the race even takes place across a frozen portion of the Bering Sea.

Each team has sixteen dogs in its crew - they all take turns to pull the musher - or the sled driver - up hills, across frozen rivers, down steep mountain gradients.

Stay listening for updates throughout the race ...

## **BELIEVE IT OR NOT!**

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A fish as small as a pinkie finger but as loud as an elephant? Now I have heard everything.

That's the discovery that's been made by scientists in waters off the coast of Myanmar - a country next to Thailand in South East Asia.

The danionella cerebrum is a teeny, tiny translucent fish that lives in shallow waters. Translucent is a fancy word for almost see-through.

Scientists have measured the noise the fish makes and discovered it's about the same in terms of decibels as an elephant's trumpet - or the sound of an aeroplane taking off.

Can you believe it? Me neither ... but there's a link to a video in today's episode notes that proves it's true. Enjoy.

## **CCC**

***Ah - there it is .. the Classroom Companion Clarion - letting us know that Christie has prepared an excellent series of absolutely free curriculum-aligned worksheets tied to this story in the podcast ... and today, teachers, Because we'd rather confidently find our way around the web than get stuck in it, this week we're practicing navigating digital texts by using search terms and features of web pages. And a warm welcome to the hundreds of teachers who have signed up via our website since the start of Term 1. Great to have you aboard***

## **THE S'QUIZ**

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

1. Which team did Australia's men's cricketers beat to win the Trans-Tasman Trophy?
2. In waters off which country does the tiny fish as loud as an elephant live?
3. How many dogs does each team have in the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's March 4 .... The start of National Aardvark Week ... how cool is the aardvark? And also the start of National Procrastination Week ... but I might put off celebrating that until next week ...

It's also a very special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow ... Sierra from Erskinville, Lakeesha from Woongarra, Henley from Gulgong, Rosary from Goodna, Alyssa from Frenchs Forest, Hugo from Cheltenham. Oscar from Leura and Tommy from Glen Iris.

Happy belated birthday to... Arnold from Gubbi Gubbi Country, Amelia from Doncaster and Kotari from Ashmont.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 5/6 Guriwig with Ms Dixon from Coledale Public School, classes 6B and C with Mrs Trewhella, Mrs Oliver & Miss Cook at Echuca Primary School, class 5 Blue with Mr Bazzo at St Eugene College in Burpengary, class 3S with Mrs Sutton at Blayney Public School and class 5R with Miss Russell at Saint Francis of Assisi School in Adelaide.

Special shout outs go to the sports teacher - Mr Ves at Irymple Secondary College and to the swim team at Gladstone Public School.

## **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. New Zealand
2. Myanmar
3. 16