

A big burger beetroot crisis; German teen rides the rails; berry farm soccer showdown; and a near miss satellite collision.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Have you ever tagged along for the weekly grocery shop? Dreaming of your favourite snacks and sips, only to find... *gasp...* the shelves are bare!? Yup, it's happening more in Australia lately, due to what's called 'supply chain issues' and one product that's been affected is my favourite burger filling, canned beetroot.

You see a lot of the goodies on the shelves don't start their journey at the store. They're grown in a paddock by farmers, picked, sorted and packed, before zooming away on planes, ships, trucks or trains until they reach your supermarket shelf. This, my friends, is a supply chain.

Now, fresh beetroot is plentiful on Aussie farms, but the canned kind? Not so much. Since Golden Circle, our biggest canned beetroot supplier, was bought by American company Kraft Heinz and moved operations to New Zealand, things have gotten in a bit of a pickle. Especially since flooding and landslideslandslips destroyed the New Zealand cannery last year.

And if you've noticed fizzy drink supplies have fizzled out, you can thank a carbon dioxide shortage and disruptions in shipping from overseas, because CO2 is what puts those lovely bubbles in your soft drinks. But, every cloud has a silver lining. It's a good reason to take a break from sugary fizzy drinks, plus, you can become a beetroot pickling pro – I've even dropped a recipe link in your episode notes. You're welcome!

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin, and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today, we've landed in Germany, and we're we've joined 17-year-old German teenager, Lasse Stolley, who finished school a year-and-a-half ago and ever since, has been working from his laptop as an app developer and riding the rails day and night!

At the age of 16, he packed up and sold his childhood belongings and, with the support of his parents, bought a train ticket and waved goodbye.

Now, trains aren't exactly known for their privacy, but Lasse doesn't mind. He's got the freedom to wake up and think, "Mountains today? Or maybe the beach?" He's travelled more than half-a-million kilometres, which is equivalent to circling the globe 12 times!

How does he do it? Lasse travels with very few possessions in a small backpack, he sleeps on overnight trains and showers at public swimming pools. You can check out his blog in the episode notes. Don't worry if your German's a bit rusty—the pictures are worth a thousand words

SPORT TIME

In the last year, soccer has shown its power to unite, captivating our hearts as we cheered for the Matildas in their World Cup and Olympic journeys. But, the magic of soccer doesn't just play out on the global stage; it also brings joy and companionship on a much smaller scale, right here in Australia.

Imagine being thousands of miles from home, working long days on a farm and missing your family and friends. This is the reality for many workers from Timor Leste, a small nation just north of Australia, who come to Tasmania for many months of the year to help with the berry harvest. After the day's work, these workers find friendship and fun in soccer.

What started as casual games has blossomed into a full-blown competition among the berry farms. Teams formed, uniforms were ordered, training sessions began, and the excitement grew. Recently, over 200 supporters filled buses to watch a thrilling match in Launceston. This event wasn't just about soccer; it was about community, overcoming loneliness, and adding joy to the workers' lives. The competition has also sparked a friendly rivalry not just on the playing fields, but in the berry fields too, reminding us all of the power of sport to bring people together, no matter where they're from.

SPACED OUT

What were you doing last Wednesday at about 5.30 in the evening? Whatever it was, I'm sure you were blissfully unaware that 608 kilometres

above your head, up in the busy traffic lanes of Lower Earth Orbit, where satellites and space stations live, two satellites, one American and one Russian, looked to be on a collision course.

No, this isn't the latest Mission Impossible movie, it actually happened!

Imagine two cars speeding, head-on, towards each other, on a highway, unable to change lanes. That's how tense it was for the space community, watching without the power to intervene. In the end, the satellites passed within 20 metres of each other without colliding, and in space terms, that's wayyy too close for comfort.

Had these orbiters collided, they might have shattered into thousands of pieces, adding significantly to the 20,000 bits of space junk objects already orbiting Earth, making space travel and satellite operations even more risky. This nerve-wracking moment sheds light on the urgent need for better ways to keep our space highways clean and safe, because who knows, one day it might be you up there.

BBC EARTH EXPERIENCE GIVE AWAY

Oh, and I almost forgot....It's giveaway time. Because we all love learning more about the world right? And we all looovvvee David Attenborough...*here in the jungles of Bourneo, we find a monkey with the world's strangest nose.....*Sorry..I couldn't help myself. If you can do a better Attenborough impression than me, we have the competition for you.

Thanks to our friends at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, we have three family passes to BBC Earth Experience, now on in Melbourne. Three lucky Squiz families, will be able to explore the beauty and wonders of the world, with everyone's favourite documentary maker, David Attenborough, as your guide.

To go into the draw, all you gotta do is send us a 20-second video of you, pretending to be narrating your very own, Earth Experience documentary, and we'll share the best ones on our socials. So, don't just sit there, start channelling your inner David Attenborough. Entries close at the end of this week. More info, is in our episode notes.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which gas is responsible for putting the fizz into fizzy drinks?

2. The distance that a German teen has travelled on trains is the equivalent of how many trips around the Earth?
3. What is the name of the space above the planet that is occupied by satellites and space stations?

SHOUT OUTS

It's March 6 Today is National Oreo Cookie Day, but it's also National Dentsits Day. Anyone else see a connection?

It's also a very special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...

Ruby from Dulwich Hill, Jacob from Pitt Town, Lucy from Beaudesert, Lucy from Mudgee, Aleena from Vermont South, Olivia from Castle Hill, Chloe and Harry from Yass, Hudson from Canberra, Ishaan and Myra from Point Cook, Gracie from Highton and Kacy listening over in Bangkok, Thailand.

Happy belated birthday to... Edie from Ballina, Xavier from Canberra and Bailey, Nevaiah, Joel and Rylan all from Ashmont.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 4J and Mrs Walker at Newbridge Heights Public School in Chipping Norton, room 1 with Mr Norton at Nuriootpa Primary School, class 5/6F with Mr Pakinga at Galston Public School, class 5W with Mrs Weier at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School in Corinda, classes 3-6A with Mrs Graham at Bradbury Public School and lastly Ellie's Homeschool in South Australia - and Ellie is new to Squiz Kids and listening everyday from home.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. CO₂ or Carbon Dioxide
2. 12
3. Lower Earth Orbit or LEO.