

Heatwave sweeps south-east; the holy month of Ramadan; Barbie set to swoop Oscars; and crocodile fur balls.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Hobart and heatwave are two words you don't often hear in the same sentence .. but as South East Australia swelters under freak autumn heatwave conditions, the Tassie capital this weekend endured the hottest night in 112 years.

Melburnians planning to spend today's public holiday watching the Moomba parade will instead need to find somewhere air-conditioned to hang out as the popular annual festival was cancelled over the weekend due to extreme heat.

That same heat saw several music festivals in Victoria also cancelled - while across the Coorong in Adelaide, South Australians battled temperatures of up to 42 degrees in some places.

Hang in there folks - a southerly change is forecast for Tuesday .. except in South Australia where temperatures are expected to stay high until Thursday.

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Speaking of freak events, residents of the Blue Mountains in western Sydney were rattled on Friday night - literally - when a 3.6 magnitude earthquake shook the ground.

A 3.6 magnitude earthquake is thankfully only a small one - but it was enough to prompt some 2000 people to call authorities to report the earth was shaking at their house. And according to reports: lots of dogs were howling and barking in the moments before the quake hit. How do they know?

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 lots of countries - including right here in Australia - as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan begins.

Muslims in Australia will begin their month of fasting tonight. Fasting means to limit the amount of food you eat. For many of the 1.9 billion Muslims in the world, no food is eaten between

the sun rising and the sun setting - as a mark of respect to Allah - which is the Arabic word for 'God'. It's also meant to be a time to watch less TV, play fewer video games and generally spend more time reading the Quran - the Islamic version of the Bible. Maybe some of your classmates are fasting during Ramadan - be sure to be supportive.

Of course, we're also in the middle of the Christian holy month otherwise known as Lent. Which is a forty day period in the lead up to Easter when Christians are expected to give up something - be it eating meat on a Friday, or lollies or chocolate or video games. Always the video games. Anything that represents a small sacrifice. The upside? At the end Lent there's Easter .. and all the eggs you can stuff in your gob.

CCC

A-ha - there's the CCC - letting us know that Christie - our very own primary school teacher - has created some excellent classroom worksheets tied to this story in the podcast. Check 'em out if you haven't already by signing up to Squiz Kids Classroom via our website - squizkids.com.au. And a big welcome to the hundreds of you that have signed up this term - it's great to have you aboard...

POP CULTURE CORNER

Can Barbie beat the bomb? Will Elemental edge out SpiderMan? And is Ken's anthem 'Kenough' to see him walk home with an Oscar?

These are just some of the questions that will be answered this morning as the movie world's biggest awards ceremony gets underway in Hollywood, California.

Yes, it's the Academy Awards - when movie stars and film directors and all the clever people who make special effects and write songs and do make-up and create film sets and dream up incredible worlds and design costumes are honoured for their work in the past year.

Of course everyone's favourite doll Barbie will be represented as she competes for the Best Movie against Oppenheimer - a movie about the atomic bomb. Barbie will also be represented on the night in the Best Original Song category - where Billie Eilish's 'What Was I Made For' goes up against 'I'm Just Ken'. Meanwhile SpiderMan Across the Spiderverse is widely tipped to win for Best Animated Film. May the best doll win

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WEIRD SCIENCE

I've heard of some crazy things in the natural world - but crocodile fur balls would have to be up there with the craziest. Scientists in northern Australia have this week been showing off their collection of fur balls washed up on river banks and beaches.

If you have a cat - you maybe know that every now and then they cough up a fur ball. It's totally gross - and a result of all that licking and self-cleaning they do.

Turns out crocodiles also produce fur balls. I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to a photo of one.

And so now you're thinking: but hang on, crocs don't have fur? And even if they did, how would they lick themselves. Oh hang on ... the fur isn't theirs ... it belongs to any number of furry animals they eat .. be they wallabies, kangaroos, wild pigs or possums. Because you see: the acid in a croc's stomach can break down most things - including bone and flesh of other animals - but it doesn't break down hair - meaning it forms in a ball in its crocodile gut until it vomits it back up.

(VOMIT SOUND EFFECT)

And apologies to those of you are eating breakfast just now ...

BBC EARTH EXPERIENCE GIVE AWAY - Winners

A big thank you to all you clever kids who sent in their best David Attenborough impersonation as part of our BBC Earth Experience giveaway. The entries were all excellent - and we'll

be featuring a selection of them on the Squiz Kids Instagram page.

The exhibition is on now in Melbourne at the Convention and Exhibition Centre - and we've got three family passes to give away ... stay listening to Wednesday's podcast when Christie will announce the winners ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which mountainous part of Sydney was an earthquake felt on Friday?
2. What's the name of the Muslim holy month that starts tonight?
3. Name the pop singer whose Barbie song "What Was I Made For" is up for an Oscar this morning?

SHOUT OUTS

It's March 11 Today's a public holiday in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT ... enjoy the day off team!

It's also a very special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Evie from Marsfield, Hilda from Goodna, Dane from Carlingford, Ella from East Ryde, Kandace from Bexley, Selena from Mosman, Sophie, Grace and Liam from Sydney, Luca from Torquay, Mitchell from Wallaroo, Madeline from Leura, Hamish from Point Cook, Roan from Coogee, Isabel from Everton Park, Leslie from Googong, Harvey from Bellevue Hill, Hywel (pronounced Howel) from Booragoon, Daniel from Duncraig and Dat listening over in Hanoi, Vietnam.

And belated shout outs go to... Rayan from Brisbane, Tim from Gulgong and Ethan from QLD.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 2B and Miss Black from Glen Iris Primary School, room 16 and Mr Hoskins at Mount Tarcoola Primary School, class 3M and Mr Cox from Cedars Christian College in Unanderra, the leafy sea dragons and Mrs Ritche at Mount Lockyer Primary School in Albany, class 5/6 and Mrs Cochrane at Holy Trinity

Primary School in Wantirna and class GR05 and Mr Sumner at Aldinga Beach Primary School – stay cool down there today guys.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Blue Mountains
2. Ramadan
3. Billie Eilish