

A fifth cyclone this season; sunken treasure to see the light; help for penguin parents; and the Tassie Devils tackle the AFL.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Today's podcast finds us in the Gulf of Carpentaria, or rather about fifty kilometres inland, in the town of Borroloola in Australia's Northern Territory. If you need a little geography refresher, I've stuck a link to a map in your episode notes. Australia's north has braved five tropical cyclones this season and Tropical Cyclone Megan was the latest. Hundreds of Borroloola's residents gathered at the town's airstrip on Monday, waiting to be flown to safety, but nature had other plans. With rain pouring and winds howling, the five Air Force planes sent to evacuate them couldn't touch down and so about 700 townsfolk were forced to ride out the storm in the local police station, health clinic and 40 houses that had been deemed safe.

Megan, a category three cyclone, made landfall at about 3.30pm on Monday, bringing with her winds up to 170 kilometres per hour and bucketloads of rain. The most destructive part of the cyclone, the whirlwinds outside the eye of the storm, missed the town, sparing them worse destruction, and yesterday, it was confirmed that all residents were safe and uninjured.

If you'd like to learn more about cyclones, we've done a Shortcut all about them and I've popped a link in the episode notes.

Now, switching from wind to water, let's think about the folks across the Nullabor, from South Australia to Western Australia. This area, near the Great Australian Bight, has been drenched with rain, causing flooding of sheep stations, the Trans-Australian Railway, and the Eyre Highway—the only sealed road linking South Australia with WA. Here's hoping for sunny skies soon!

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 the ocean off the coast of the Caribbean, where about 600 metres beneath the surface lies the wreck of the Spanish Galleon the San Jose (think Black Pearl/ Pirates of

the Carribean style but grander, with 64 cannons and three towering masts). This jewel of the Spanish Armada sank all the way back in 1708, taken down by British forces during its voyage from South America to Europe, loaded with what? Treasures! We're talking gold, silver, and emeralds worth a staggering 17 billion dollars. That's "billion" with a "b," folks!

Fast forward to 2015, when the Colombian navy stumbled upon this underwater treasure chest. But, here's the twist: there's been a bit of a squabble over who gets to claim the loot. Countries have been tugging back and forth in a legal battle over the rights to these riches.

And the exciting news? It looks like the archaeologists have finally got the green light, elbowing past the politicians, ready to explore this watery wonderland, its glass, porcelain, leather and even human remains that have remained undisturbed beneath the waves. This underwater adventure could kick off as early as next month. I wonder if 'x' really does mark the spot?!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

And so, it's back to Western Australia we go, to Penguin Island, just a quick 10-minute boat ride off the coast of the Perth suburb of Rockingham. Here, the adorable Little Penguins (yep, that's their real name, and they are indeed little) are feeling the heat. With temperatures soaring above 35 degrees Celsius, these tiny birds are getting too hot, which means... fewer baby penguins.

The island, which was home to 1,300 of the penguins only 10 years ago has seen the population dwindle to a mere three hundred. But don't worry, help is on the way! Conservationists and citizen scientists have teamed up to keep an eye on the penguins' nesting and dining habits. Their brilliant plan?

Building nesting boxes for penguin parents. The boxes are painted white to reflect the sunlight and have built-in ventilation holes to allow air to circulate, reducing the temperature inside by an enormous eight degrees.

It just goes to show, sometimes, the coolest solutions are literally about keeping cool. Here's to thinking outside the box!

SPORT TIME

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If you're a resident of Tasmania, we've saved the best till last today. For nearly 150 years, Aussie Rules Football has been a big part of life on the island, but guess what? They've never had their own team in the national competition until this week. The Tassie Devils!

Both men's and women's teams have just made history by joining the national league. That's right, starting in 2028, they'll be competing in their very own green guernseys, complete with a yellow map of Tassie and a bold red 'T'.

Now, with all the excitement, the talk of building shiny new training facilities and a brand spanking new stadium has been tossed around like a proverbial political football, but with the teams now officially in the league, it's time for Tasmania to come together and support their tenacious Devils. Show 'em what island spirit is all about Tassie!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the predicted value of all the gold, silver and emeralds that were sunken with the wreck of the San Jose?
2. What is the name of the penguin species that occupies penguin island off the coast of Rockingham?
3. What are the colours that feature on the guernsey of the newly launched Tassie Devils AFL club?

SHOUT OUTS

It's March 20 Today is the autumnal equinox in the Southern Hemisphere and Vernal or spring equinox in the Northern. It's one of only two days in the year when the hours of daylight and darkness are exactly equal. It's also World Oral Health day, so don't forget to brush and floss.

It's also a very special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Evangelique from Yass, Aanya from Middle harbour, Emily from Ocean Grove, Jett from Jerilderie, James from Kew, Gia from Whitlam and Alex from Sydney.

Belated shout outs go to... Hunter from Wagga Wagga, Crystal from Gladstone, Arthur from Chinchilla, Sophie from Brookfield and Alex listening over in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... all the students in upper primary at Rapid Bay Primary School, class 4/5 with Miss Lowry at Romaine Park Primary School in Burnie, class 4/5 with Ms McIntosh at Asquith Public School, stage 3 blue and Mr Dunn at St Michael's Primary School in Nelson Bay, class 6B with Ms Bronson at Rouse Hill Public School, year 3 and Mrs Calamatta at Erasmus Primary School in Hawthorn, class 6R3 and Miss Prasad at Spring Mountain State School and lastly today to year 3/4H with Mrs Hill at Beelbangera Public School. Beel - bang -era

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 17 billion dollars
2. Little Penguins
3. Green, yellow and red.