

Aboriginal treasures unearthed; Thailand's world's largest water fight; private jets for pets; and a hippo makes a midnight run.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Wednesday April 17th -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Aboriginal treasures unearthed; Thailand's world's largest water fight; private jets for pets; and a hippo makes a midnight run;

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

THE LOWDOWN

Have you ever dreamed of being a treasure hunter, uncovering secrets from the past? Well, archaeologists are just like treasure hunters, and they've just made a thrilling discovery on an island chain called Jiigurru, way up north off the east coast of Australia around the Great Barrier Reef.

Working in partnership with traditional Aboriginal landowners, they've been exploring an ancient midden—that's a kind of old rubbish dump where people from long ago left their food scraps and other items. While investigating this site, they found something truly surprising. Amidst the usual shells and fish bones, they uncovered dozens of pottery shards. These weren't just any pieces of pottery; they suggest that Aboriginal people were making and using pottery up to three thousand years ago.

This discovery is especially significant because it challenges the previously held belief that Europeans introduced pottery to the Aboriginal people. Instead, it appears that the indigenous communities of North Queensland built boats and navigated across the Coral Sea, exchanging ideas and goods like ceramics, with people from Papua New Guinea, the Torres Strait, and Pacific Islands.

So, thanks to this exciting archaeological find, we now know that the Aboriginal people of ancient Australia were skilled artisans and seafarers, long before European contact. Isn't history amazing?

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 Thailand, where from the capital city Bangkok and across all 77 of the countries provinces, the world's biggest water fight is underway!

The Songkran Water Festival marks the beginning of the Thai new year and for Thai people, it's a time when they traditionally wash away bad luck from the previous year. How do they do it? People of all ages dress up in colourful, flowery shirts, and over three soggy days, from sunrise through to night time, locals and tourists alike arm themselves with buckets and water pistols and drench each each other. By splashing water, they are washing away the bad luck from the previous year, hoping to bring good luck for the new one.

Of course I've stuck a link to photos of this epic festival in your episode notes. This festival is definitely a must-see. You might say it's one for the bucket list- [Mum Joke Siren] - get it, 'bucket' list. My first Mum joke of term two, don't worry, there's plenty more where that came from.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

From the soggy streets of Bangkok to suburban Cape Town in South Africa. People have been hiding in their homes, because a hungry hippo... is not on the roof eating cake, but roaming the streets after fleeing from a fight with another hippo.

Caught on camera in the wee hours of the morning (the video link is in your episode notes), this hefty hippo made quite the escape artist, dodging the police and even trampling a few gardens. Can you imagine waking up to a hippo in your petunias? Good thing everyone was mostly asleep, since hippos, while not the best at seeing, can get pretty grumpy if you startle them.

Don't worry, though—the police managed to guide our adventurous hippo friend safely back to the reserve. No hippos or humans were harmed in this midnight escapade. Now, that's what I call a hefty night's work!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

While we're on the subject of animals, have you ever wondered what your pets do when you're off on holidays? Do they miss you, or do they have their own little adventures? Well, if you ever dream of taking your furry friend along and you've got a spare \$6,000, here's a tip!

Bark Air is a new airline service catering specifically to dogs. That's right, when your pup arrives at the airport, they get the VIP treatment: calming scents wafting through the air, noise-cancelling ear muffs to block out the scary engine roars, a snug calming jacket, and of course, lots of yummy treats. And guess what? They even get to strut through their own private check-in before boarding a private jet.

Right now, Bark Air only flies to New York, Los Angeles and London they're hoping to add more dog-friendly destinations soon. Oh, and here's a fun bonus: buy a ticket for your pooch, and you get to fly free!

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 name of a site where Aboriginal people left their rubbish?
2. Why do Thai people soak each other with water during the Songkran festival?
3. How much will it cost you and your dog to fly from New York to Los Angeles on Bark Air?

SHOUT OUTS

It's April 17th ... International Bat Appreciation Day. Let's just take a moment to appreciate all the bats we know, and hope that none of them are vampires in disguise.

It's also a special day for the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...

Emilia and Sophia from Cannon Hill, Gus from Willunga, Sydney from Highgate, Malik from Birrong and Hamish from Surrey Hills.

And a reminder to the Squiz Kids who celebrated a birthday over our recent break to check our Bumper Holiday Quiz Episodes for the week in which your birthday fell for your birthday shout out.

***QLD, VIC & WA back at school**

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 8S with Mr Eden and Mr Harding at Springfield Anglican School, classes 5S and 5V with Mrs Smeaten and Miss Vantarakis at Vermont South Primary School, the Falcons class with Ms Farren-Price at Upper Brookfield State School, all of the students at Gladstone Public School and lastly to team Barker who are homeschooling via Wakaba Elementary in Noheji in Japan!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. A midden
2. To wash away bad luck
3. \$6,000