

The Prime Minister's Anzac trek; Bluey's big day in London; Milo makes it home; and our first Aussie Astronaut

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 24

In Squiz Kids Today ... The Prime Minister's Anzac trek; Bluey's big day in London; Milo makes it home; and our first Aussie Astronaut

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

THE LOWDOWN

You probably know that tomorrow is Anzac Day, a time when we remember and honour the bravery of those who fought to protect their homes, families, and values. This year, in the leadup to Anzac Day, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been visiting Papua New Guinea (PNG), our neighbour to the north. He is there to remember the Kokoda Campaign, one of the hardest trials Australia faced during World War II.

During the Second World War, Japanese forces tried to take over PNG by capturing the city of Port Moresby, which was under Australian control at the time. The Kokoda Campaign involved fierce fighting in hot, dense jungles and mountainous terrain. Australian and Papuan soldiers worked together to stop the Japanese invasion. Many soldiers lost their lives, and many more were injured, but the spirit of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice helped them regain control.

Many Australians now hike the Kokoda Track, a challenging 96-kilometer trail through mountains and jungles, to pay tribute to the heroes of this campaign. Yesterday, Australian Prime Minister Albanese and the Prime Minister of PNG, James Marape, set out to walk a 15-kilometer section of this track. They camped overnight and will finish their journey today at Isurava, a site of intense battle during the campaign.

Tomorrow morning, as the sun rises, both Prime Ministers will attend a dawn service at the memorial in Isurava. They will reflect on the history shared by our two countries and the strong bond that continues today.

(BREAK)

On the subject of Anzac Day - if you're going to a dawn service tomorrow and want to learn more about the history and significance of the day and how the celebrations have changed over the years, a special Squiz Kids Shortcut will be dropping in this channel, that you can listen to on your way home, available from 6 am.

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 heart of the city of London, just down the road from famous spots like Trafalgar Square and St. Paul's Cathedral, at a place called Australia House. It's a hub for Aussies living or travelling in the UK who need a little help or just want to connect with home. But this week, Australia House had another special visitor - a very special young heeler from Brisbane - none other than Bluey!

With a full marching band playing, Bluey waved to all her fans outside the building, which for one day was renamed 'Bluey House'. There's a link to a video of this exciting occasion in the episode notes.

So why all the fuss? Well, Bluey was there to receive a Special Recognition Award for her amazing impact not just in the UK, but all around the world. This honour recognises that Bluey is an ambassador for Australia, helping to bring her country closer to people from all around the world.

And, although there had been rumours that Bluey might be coming to an end, the surprise new episode aired on Sunday, called "Surprise", takes a peek into the future, giving viewers hope that there'll be many years of Bluey to come. No spoilers, you'll have to watch to find out.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

From one pooch's international adventures to another, Milo, the Jack Russell Terrier cross, was reunited with his owners last week after a big adventure in Melbourne. Milo's owners had taken him on holiday with them, and he was in the care of a pet handler at Melbourne's airport heading home when he managed to give them the slip.

Milo, who has been described as 'extremely fast', spent 17 whole days exploring the city's suburbs. Back home in the U.K. his family were missing and worrying about him. They asked for help on social media to find their runaway rover. After many sightings, a kind animal rescue charity set up a special trap to safely lure Milo in.

And on Friday last week, Milo's family were finally reunited with one very excited pup at London's Heathrow Airport. I've stuck a link to video of the heartwarming, tail-wagging moment in the episode notes. Milo's family is so relieved to have him back that they've decided Milo's next holiday will be a staycation at home!

SPACED OUT

Imagine your mum announced she was going to be an astronaut! That's exactly what happened with two Aussie kids and their mum, 38-year-old Katherine Bennell-Pegg. Yesterday, Katherine became the first-ever astronaut to wear the Australian flag on her shoulder. Out of an astounding 23,000 applicants to the European Space Agency's training program, Katherine was one of only six who graduated and won their astronaut wings.

While a few Aussies have been astronauts before, they represented other countries. Katherine is our first true-blue Aussie astronaut! And if you're wondering how she stood out from the crowd of applicants, it's not just her skills as an aeronautical engineer. Katherine shines as both a leader and a team player, qualities she honed through playing team sports and volunteering with the State Emergency Service and Surf Life Saving

While Katherine is not on the crew list for any missions yet, she says she would love to go to the moon - but in the meantime she jokes that her certificate "is going straight to the pool room."

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 the track that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will be hiking in Papua New Guinea?
2. What is the name of the Jack Russell who was lost in Melbourne for 17 days?
3. How many people applied to the European Space Agency hoping to become astronauts?

SHOUT OUTS

It's April 24th ... Denim Day - so get your jeans or your jacket on... or both together if you can pull off the double denim look.

It's also a special day for the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Ella and Layla from Mt Gravatt, Luca from Annandale, Alanah from Cannon Hill, Logan from Unanderra, Maggie and Georgia from Duncraig, Boston from Aldinga Beach, Charlotte from Churchill, Drew and Zach from Albany Creek, Liam from Ringwood North, Hayley from Point Cook and Ivy from Yass.

Belated shout outs go to... Hugo from Forest lake, Savannah from Victoria and Abbie travelling around Tasmania!

Classroom shoutouts today go to schools in Qld, Vic and WA who are back at school...

Class K6 RP with Mrs Parekh, Mrs Reardon and Mrs Jefferys at Caringbah Public School, class 1/2O with Mrs O'Toole at St Bernard State School in Tamborine Mountain, class 3/4T with Miss Tait at Bass Valley Primary School, class 3G and Mr Gadischkie (Mr Ga-diss-key) from Kruger State School in Ipswich, classes 4M and 5A with Miss McPhan and Mr Ayres at The Southport School and lastly year 4 with Mrs Twomey at St Augustine's Primary School in Rivervale.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. The Kokoda Track
2. Milo
3. 23,000

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website. Teachers: there's a form there too for you to fill out the birthdays of every kid in your class.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow...With A Shortcut to Anzac Day and then on Friday with your Kids vs.Adults Weekly News S'Quiz

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.