

Social media ban for kids; Belgium's mullet festival; Orcas sink a sail boat; and the wonderful world of whale chat.

Hello Squiz Kids listeners -

Just jumping into your ears at the top of this week's podcast to ask a small favour.

We're in renovation mode at Squiz Kids - overhauling our website, improving the Newshounds experience - and we want to hear from you on how we could improve the podcast too.

To that end: I'd really appreciate it if you could fill out the Squiz Kids Survey - I've stuck a link in the episode notes - or you can access it via the website, squizkids.com.au.

A few minutes of your time will mean the world to us here at Squiz Kids - and make it easier for us to keep on doing what we do. Thanks in advance ...

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

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Wednesday May 15 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Social media ban for kids; Belgium's mullet festival; Orcas sink a sail boat; and the wonderful world of whale chat.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Hands up who's heard of TikTok? Or Instagram? Or Snapchat? Yeah - i thought so. Even though the minimum age for kids to use a lot of these social media sites is 13 - heaps of kids all over the world have nevertheless worked their way onto them.

And that's fine when it comes to keeping in touch with friends and family - but there are plenty of things that happen on social media which are not appropriate for kids.

And that's why South Australia is exploring how to become the first state in Australia to ban social media for under 14s.

I know right? So unfair! Except it's not.

According to law makers in SA - social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram and even YouTube are regularly exposing kids your age to content their brains are just not ready to process.

It's not a criticism. That's just the way the human body works. And for the most part parents and teachers do an excellent job shielding you from stuff that's inappropriate - but we're not superhuman - and we can't be everywhere all at once. And so now the SA government is looking at ways to restrict social media access to kids - for their own good.

It's something we talk a lot about on this podcast - and one of the reasons we launched Newshounds - our free media literacy resource for primary school kids - which anyone can jump into via our website: quizkids.com.au.

BREAK

Budget, fiscal, inflation, surplus ... do your eyes glaze over whenever you hear these words? Well, that's only normal. But you're going to hear a lot of them in the next 24 hours after Treasurer Jim Chalmers last night delivered the Federal Budget.

Now, we've been chatting quite a bit on the pod about what the Federal Budget is and why it's important - including having the Treasurer himself on the podcast last week.

But in a nutshell: it's a yearly event where the man in charge of Australia's piggy bank explains how he intends to spend everything inside it in the months and years ahead.

One word you're going to hear plenty of in the next day or so is 'surplus' - and that's because Mr Chalmers has predicted Australia's economy will be up \$9.3 billion in the year ahead. Which is to say: the piggy bank is in a pretty good state. So now you 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 Belgium - in Europe - where the annual Festival of the Mullet has just taken place.

No - not the fish - the haircut.

You know how every second kid these days has a mullet ... or at least, a sort of a mullet with a burst fade on the sides?

WEll, over 200 mullet enthusiasts rocked up to a town in Belgium over the weekend just gone to celebrate the hairstyle that's also known as 'business at the front, party at the back'.

The organisers said it was hoped more people would discover how cool it is to have a mullet ... I'd totally get a mullet except my children would laugh at me ... and I don't have enough hair ..

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Have you ever heard of a man called Dr Doo-little? Maybe you've seen the movie or read the book? It's about a man who learns to talk to the animals .. and it's not real, of course - because no one has yet learned how to speak animal language. But scientists in America reckon they're a step closer after decoding what they say is a whale alphabet.

Using artificial intelligence, and experiments with a pod of sperm whales in the Caribbean, the scientists believe they have uncovered patterns and rhythms in the clicking noises that sperm whales make when they're together - which could be evidence of a complex language they use to communicate with one another.

Imagine one day being able to speak whale? I would give anything to be able to speak Louis - which is the language of my dog. Even if I suspect all he ever thinks about is when I'm going to feed him next and why I won't just leave him alone to sleep all day ..

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

While we're underwater - how about this for a whacky news story.

A pod of orcas - or killer whales - off the coast of Gibraltar who have become famous for nudging sail boats in the Mediterranean Sea and - in some cases - disabling keels and rudders - have gone the whole hog and rammed a sail boat until it sunk.

Luckily the people on board the boat were able to scramble to safety on a nearby oil tanker, but animal behaviour experts have been left scratching their heads, trying to work out why this particular group of orcas seems intent on causing havoc to passing humans.

One theory is they're just playing. Another, they don't like the idea of humans competing for the fish they like to eat by the massive mouthful. But the truth is: no one really knows. Just as no one really knows why a pod of orcas in North America a couple of years back started swimming around with a dead salmon on their heads. Maybe they're just fashion forward. Or, in the case of the Gibraltar pod, just really orca-nised (DAD JOKE ALARM) .. oops - there goes the Dad joke alarm .. Orca, orca-nised, get it? I'm here all week.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country has a mullet festival just taken place?
2. What's the name of Australia's Treasurer - the bloke in charge of the country's piggy bank?
3. What sort of whales have scientists been studying to discover a whale alphabet?

SHOUT OUTS

It's May 15th ... today is International Day of Families ... ahhhh - where the United Nations urges us all to stop and think about how important our family is .. happy family day everyone.

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

Eliora (pronounced E-loor-ah) from Vermont South, Ryder from Aldinga Beach, Elwyn from Cargo, Will from Larrakia Country, Spencer from Chapman, Ki (pronounced Key) from Rhodes, Bron from Wellington Point, Max from Concord, Matilda from Brisbane and twins Riley and Brody from Maroubra.

Belated shout outs go to.... Baaj, Axel and London from Perth, Tiago from Watsonia, Edward from Malvern East and Adam from Darwin.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 5R and Mr Alizzi (A-lit-c) at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School in Mango Hill, class 3/4B with Mr Blain at Mandama Primary School, class 5/6P with Mrs Price at Camden Public School, Room 23 with Miss Celeste at Beaconsfield Primary School, classes 1MB with Mrs McCready-Brown and 4RO with Mr Roscoe at Kennedy ESF International School in Hong Kong, class 3 Yellow with Miss Carosa at Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School in Greystanes and lastly to all of the students at Mortlake Public School in Concord.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Belgium
2. Jim Chalmers
3. Sperm whales

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.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - Christie will be back again tomorrow with another edition of Squiz Kids Today. In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.