

Koala vaccine provides new hope; Landslide in Papua New Guinea; big weekend for Mariners and Man Utd; and Thailand's marauding monkeys.

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 Monday May 27 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Koala vaccine provides new hope; Landslide in Papua New Guinea; big weekend for Mariners and Man Utd; and Thailand's marauding monkeys.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And today we start the week with some good news out of the Gold Coast where researchers believe they're on the brink of a breakthrough helping koalas beat a nast disease.

For years now koala populations all over Australia have been struck down by a nasty and highly contagious disease called chlamydia. It's a bacterial infection that causes koalas to get really sick - and in some cases- become blind.

But a clever bunch of scientists have been experimenting with a vaccine at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary - and the results so far have been very promising.

According to the doctor leading the vaccination program, rates of chlamydia infection among the population of koalas near Currumbin have dropped significantly since the program began - with some 34 baby koalas - or joeys, born in that time.

And get this: the scientists have developed a clever micro-chip which can release a vaccine top-up in koalas without them having to be captured and undergo an injection. Amazing!

It's an excellent early sign that an effective preventative cure might just have been found for a problem that has impacted up to 70 percent of Australia's koala population.

Which is just as well - because an Australia without koalas would be like a China without pandas or an Africa without lions ... and no one wants that.

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 Papua New Guinea - where rescue efforts are still underway after a landslide swept through a mountain village.

Papua New Guinea is Australia's closest neighbour - which is why Australian rescue teams were on standby over the weekend to race to the isolated highland village and assist in the recovery effort.

Despite being our closest neighbour, life in PNG is about as far removed from life in Australia as it's possible to imagine. Many people live in small villages, in simple huts, high in the mountains. Papua New Guinea also has one of the highest annual rainfall levels of any country in the world, making landslides like this one unfortunately relatively common. We're sending all our best Squiz Kids' wishes to all the people affected.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Have you ever heard the expression 'cheeky monkey'? Maybe an adult you know has used that expression to describe you? 'Cheeky' is certainly one adjective being used to describe the monkeys in the tourist town of Lopburi in Thailand where the primates outnumber the humans and things are getting out of control.

Local authorities in Lopburi have started to capture as many monkeys as possible in the town after the free-roaming monkeys started to outnumber people and run amok in the town.

Shops have had to trade from behind wire fences, tourists have been set upon and entire buildings have been overrun with the marauding macaques. Macaques is the name of the species of monkey that rules the town there.

But - monkeys being the clever critters they are - have cottoned on to the great monkey round up and are actively ignoring the delicious fruit cage traps that humans have been making to try to trap them.

Monkeys 1 - humans nil.

SPORT TIME

Third time's a charm if you're a Central Coast Mariner - the A-League grand final winning side who on Saturday night made a little bit of soccer history by winning the A-League competition for the third year running ... it's what they call a three-peat.

And didn't the crowd love it? The Mariner's home ground in Gosford, on the NSW Central Coast played host to wild scenes of celebration as

Mariner fans stormed the field in their thousands - cheering on the boys in the yellow and blue - who staged an epic come-from-behind effort to beat the Melbourne Victory 3-1.

Meanwhile - over in England and still on football - fans of Manchester United were celebrating yesterday after their side staged a massive upset to beat Man City 2-1 in the FA Cup Final ... it was the first game Man City had lost in 35 games ... ouch.

Q+A Callout

Did you know it's only 60 days today until the Paris Olympics? And did you also know that for the first time in Olympic history, skateboarding will be an Olympic sport?

And that's especially exciting for the Gold Coast's Arisa Trew - a 14 year old Aussie skateboarder who's ranked 2nd in the world and was the first female to do a 720 trick in competition. What's a 720? That's when you perform two whole rotations in mid-air, while on a skateboard. And it's REALLY hard to do.

But doing hard stuff is all in day's work for Arisa .. which is why we're super excited to announce she's agreed to take the Squiz Kids hotseat and sit down with Christie for our next edition of the Squiz Kids Q+A - the podcast where you, the kids of Australia, get to ask the questions. Like: what is it like to do a 720? How hard did she train to do it? Who are her sporting heroes? What's the secret to her sporting success? What does it feel like to be ranked number 2 in the world in a sport - at the age of 14? What's it like to go to a school where you can choose skateboarding as a subject? And how excited is she about the upcoming X Games in California and Olympic Games in Paris?

But look lively! You only have a limited time to get your questions in. So get your thinking caps on and send them in to us at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au And teachers feel free to send us your class questions... the more the merrier.

SURVEY

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And a little bit of housekeeping as we say a huge and heartfelt thank you to all of you who took the time to do the Squiz Kids Survey ... we had more survey respondents than ever before - so thank you to everyone. And congratulations to one of our teacher responders, Mrs Jones from Secret Harbour Primary School in Western Australian who's name was chosen at random in the draw for the \$250 gift card ... Mrs J says she's been a loyal Squiz Kids listener with her kids since we first started, four years ago. So a more deserving winner, I cannot imagine. Thanks for

your support Mrs Jones - and make sure you buy yourself something nice.

Oh - and yes, I am totally coming to visit Secret Harbour ... sounds like something out of a children's pirate book ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. A landslide has struck in which country just to the north of Australia?
2. Name the team that won the A-League grand final on the weekend?
3. How old is Aussie skateboarding champ and our next Q+A guest, Arisa Trew?

SHOUT OUTS

It's May 27th ... today marks the start of Reconciliation Week .. an important week for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation - which means living together in harmony and shared happiness with Indigenous Aussies.

And to mark that day - today's Birthday Shoutouts will recognise the traditional names of the places where birthday kids come from ... And because its a special occasion and that's going to take a while - let's crack out the ol' birthday reggae tune ... hit it

It's happy birthday to the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Ava from Warrnambool (Gunditjmara Country), Ekaterina and Archie from Yass (Ngunnawal/Ngambri Country), Dath from Aldinga Beach (Kurna Country), Izzy from Nightcliff (Larrakia Country), Ethan from The Vines (Whadjuk Country), Sahara from Concord (Wangal Country), Zoe from Leppington (Darug Country), Isabelle from Randwick (Gadigal Country), Eli from Burleigh Waters (Kombumerri Country), Dylan from Mosman Park (Whadjuk Country), Sthruthi and Cadell from Cobbitty (Tharawal Country), Parthiv from Oran Park (Darug Country), Tyson from West Albury (Wiradjuri Country), Jampa from Dee Why (Garigal Country), Zuri from Hughesdale (Boonwurrung Country), Eva from Brisbane (Turrbal/Jagera Country), Ana from Cammeray (Cammeraygal Country), Ava from Yarrawonga (Yorta Yorta Country), Cleo from Molong (Wiradjuri Country),

Carter from Nelson Bay (Worimi Country) and Ayla listening over in Switzerland.

Belated shout outs go to... Leilah (pronounced Lay-lah) from Geelong (Wadawurrung Country), Joan from Essendon (Wurundjeri Country), Leitzia from Perth (Whadjuk Country), Emily from Coober Pedy (Antakirinja Country) and Alivia from Marsfield (Wallumedegal Country).

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 5/6S and Mr Seargent at Tregear Public School, class 3/4C and Mr Cattley at West Wallsend Public School, class 4H and Mr Hellier at Newington Public School, class 2/4X with Miss P at Coober Pedy Area School, Miss Smith's class at Harrington Public School and class 4A with Mr Scilessere at Glen Waverley Primary School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Papua New Guinea
2. Central Coast Mariners
3. 14

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 - Bryce will be back again tomorrow with special shortcut on social media - there's been a lot about it in the news lately, including new laws to keep kids off it - this shortcut takes a look at the what, how and why at the most influential media platform of our time. In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.