

A mega-cave on the moon; Irish unicyclist wins a record; a super dog saves lives; and the space nappy is no more

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, July 17...

In Squiz Kids Today ... A mega-cave on the moon; Irish unicyclist wins a record; a super dog saves lives; and the space nappy is no more.

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

THE LOWDOWN

For thousands of years, humans have gazed up at the moon and wondered what secrets it might hold. Well, guess what? This week, a group of Italian scientists made an incredible discovery! Using data from NASA's ground-penetrating radar, they found an enormous cave on the moon that could be just one of many leading to a hidden underground lunar landscape.

The cave is located in the Sea of Tranquility (not a real sea, unfortunately), where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin first set foot on the moon over fifty years ago. This moon cave is about 40 metres wide and at least 100 metres deep—imagine a Rugby League footy field, but going straight down! Woah! It was likely formed millions or even billions of years ago when the moon was volcanically active, with lava flowing beneath its surface.

So, why is this discovery so exciting? Because the moon's surface is a pretty rough place, with harsh radiation from the sun, extreme temperatures, and micrometeorite storms making it very inhospitable (meaning you wouldn't want to live there). But underground could be a different story. One British astronaut thinks humans might be living in these moon caves in the next 20 to 30 years. She even suggested that we might need to abseil in and jetpack out. Personally, I'm hoping for a huge firestation pole like in the Ghostbusters movies!

Geronimo!!!

Speaking of Rugby League fields... the eyes of Australia will be on one in Queensland tonight when the NSW Blues and the QLD Maroons take to the pitch in a State of Origin decider. Only twice before, in 1994 and 2005, have the Blues won a decider in the sunshine state. But, they overcame the odds in Melbourne to win Game 2 and Blues skipper Jake Trbojevic says he just wants his team to go out and compete to the best of their abilities against the rival Maroons, who will be led by his Manly teammate Daly Cherry-Evans.

Whatever the result, the game will be the winner!

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 Ireland, where a man has spent five days, five hours, and twenty-three minutes unicycling the length of the country. Really!?

Irishman Eamonn Keaveney earned a Guinness World Record for the fastest crossing of the 495-kilometre distance on a unicycle. He cycled for 12 hours a day, and with a sprained ankle towards the end of his journey, he said that every turn of the pedal was "torture."

And this wasn't Eamonn's first World Record. In 2016, he achieved another record by completing the world's longest barefoot journey and climbing 10 mountains in 10 days while barefoot.

Now that's one wheel-y impressive feat! [Mum Joke Buzzer] Wheels and Feet in one pun. I'm on fire!

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

The dog in this next story doesn't have a world record, but he does have a gold medal that hangs on his collar. Meet Sharwood, the heroic hound! This exceptional eight-year-old pooch has single paw-ed-ly saved the lives of 160 other dogs!

"How has he done it?", I hear you ask. Sharwood is a doggy blood donor! Every few months, he and his owner head into a doggy blood donation clinic in the United Kingdom. Sharwood gets a health check and lots of pats and hugs before giving 450mls of blood. The blood is

then stored until another dog, in an emergency situation, needs this life-saving goodness.

And Sharwood has done this forty times! He's so relaxed that he usually sleeps and even snores through the process before being showered with even more hugs and treats when it's all over.

~~Now that Sharwood has turned eight, he's had to retire from his career as a life-saving blood donor, but we're sure he'll head back to the clinic regularly for a visit and a sneaky treat or two.~~

Sharwood the doggy blood donor, Squiz Kids salutes you!

SPACED OUT

And we're heading back to space for this final story today. If you were an astronaut, what do you think the worst thing about going for a spacewalk would be? Would it be floating out into the blackness of space? Enduring the extreme temperatures as the sun rises and then sets every 45 minutes? Or the ever-present danger of space junk whizzing past you at 10 kilometres per second?

For many astronauts, the single most uncomfortable thing about spacewalking has been, believe it or not, wearing an adult nappy to pee into.

Yep, you heard that right!

Since the 1970s, astronauts have been donning the M A G (Maximum Absorbency Garment) before heading out for a spacewalk. It's leaky, it's smelly, and as you can imagine, super uncomfortable.

But now some researchers, inspired by the Dune science fiction movies have developed a urine collection and recycling system. It collects the pee, filters it through a system in an astronaut's backpack and within five minutes, it can be returned to the astronaut as....drinking water!

With NASA's Artemis crewed moon missions fast approaching, where astronauts may be out on the moon's surface for hours on end, the current one-litre drink bottle just won't cut it. So, a recyclable supply of water—even if it was once pee—is definitely a better option.

So, next time you look up at the moon, just think: future astronauts might be sipping on recycled space juice while exploring the lunar surface! Out of this world!

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 sea (not an actual sea) where the luar cave has been discovered?
2. What is the name of our heroic blood donor doggy?
3. By what initials does NASA know the adult nappy that currently collects space pee?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, July 17 ... World Emoji Day. Blushing smiley face with hearts; raising hands emoji; woman dancing emoji. And that's how I feel about that!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Ada from Cloncurry, Austin from Tempe, Amity from Jerilderie, Sophia from Forest Lake, Susie from Dundas Valley, Fletcher from Grovedale and Sammy from The Gold Coast.

Belated shout outs go to Poppy from Geelong, Lily from Grovedale, Maddie from Glen Iris and Ashley from Springvale.

And A LOT of you celebrated a birthday during the recent school holidays whilst the Squiz Kids team were having a well earned rest - and we don't want you to miss out on a shout out so we'll work our way through all of these shoutouts over the coming week... And I reckon we crack out the 'ol birthday reggae tune... hit it!

It's a happy *belated* birthday to... Aaron and Evie from Vermont South, Hamish from Warrnambool, Oscar from Ivanhoe, Abbey and Jaylah from Unanderra, Sana from Forest Lake, Lola from South Brisbane, Kwei (pronounced Kway) from Binningup, Thomas from Bardon, Eric from Ultimo, Tully from Gladstone, Aurora from Subiaco, Willow from Mt Isa, Tommy, Blake and Olivia from Yass, Lily from Kensington, Scarlett from Grovedale, Alexander from Evandale, Jackson and Dante from Bradbury, Cassidy from Ultimo, Apple from Williamstown and Lucy from Moorooka.

Classroom shoutouts will resume next week.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. The Sea of Tranquillity
2. Sharwood
3. The M A G

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 -We'll be back again tomorrow.
In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.