

## **Inspiring Aussies in Paris; wildfires in Canada; zero-gravity Olympics in space; and the cows terrorising Tassie.**

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, July 29...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Inspiring Aussies in Paris; wildfires in Canada; zero-gravity Olympics in space; and the cows terrorising Tassie.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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It's only day two of the Paris Olympics - and already there have been so many stories of inspiration.

And if the Olympics and Paralympics are going to teach us anything over the next month - it's that humans really are remarkable - and that when we put our minds to things and put in the effort - there's really no limit to what we can achieve.

And there were two stories over the weekend that were an Olympic inspirational standout.

The first being our gold medal winning swimmer Meg Harris. The 22 year-old was a member of the Australian women's 4x100 metre relay team who won the event for a remarkable fourth Olympics in a row.

As well as being an incredible athlete and team-mate, Meg has a hair impairment - which means she only has partial hearing in both ears. It's a hearing impairment she's had since she was a child - but has never let it stop her chasing her dreams.

She's learned to listen extra carefully for the whistle to get up on the starting block - and of course the starter's gun. And as we saw on Saturday night - it's a disability that hasn't held her back. Squiz Kids Salutes you Meg!

Meanwhile, over on the hockey pitch, Aussie Matt Dawson has taken the concept of dedication to his sport to new heights. The Hockeyroo - which is the name given to our mens' hockey team - suffered a finger injury during training two weeks ago. His doctors said it would take four to six months to properly recover- but he didn't want to miss the Olympics so made the decision to have the top part of his finger amputated - which is fancy word for medically chopped off.

Now that's what I call a team player .. though please don't try this at home ..

Matt and his team-mates beat Argentina on the weekend in their opening game at the Olympics - and will play Ireland later today.

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What's in the box? That was the question on everyone's lips this weekend during medal presentations at the Paris Olympics as athletes took to the podium in Paris.

As well as bowing to receive their medals, athletes were handed a long, rectangular box as a Paris Olympics souvenir. Inside the box is what's called a Paris Iconics poster ... a limited edition poster commemorating the Paris Olympics - an illustration hand drawn by a famous artist - which looks a bit like a Where's Wally picture.

I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes so you can take a look for yourself.

So now you know ... you're welcome.

### ***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops - and today we've landed in Canada - where wild fires have devastated a popular tourist town - and also in California - where fires have forced the evacuation of hundreds of people from their homes.

As you know: when we have winter down here in the southern hemisphere - our northern hemisphere cousins have summer. And high temperatures and dry conditions have led to some of the worst bushfires that western Canada and the west coast of the USA have seen for many years.

In Jasper - a popular tourist town in Canada's famous Rocky Mountains - some 300 buildings were destroyed as thousands were forced to flee the flames.

And in California - residents who were forced to evacuate their homes because of bushfire six years ago and going through the exhausting process all over again.

Sending all of our best Squiz Kids wishes to everyone involved ..

## **SPACED OUT**

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Seems that Olympics fever is not just restricted to everyone down here on planet Earth ... astronauts living and working in the International Space Station have also been getting into the Olympic spirit - staging their very own, zero-gravity version of the Games 400 kilometres above our heads.

The space station is in what's called permanent orbit above the Earth - that's a fancy way of saying it spins in a permanent loop high above the Earth, just outside the stratosphere. At any given moment, there are up to seven astronauts living up there - conducting experiments in what is essentially a great big science lab in the sky. I know, crazy right?

And this weekend the residents of the space station, inspired by events down here on Earth, staged their own version of the Olympics - with a sprint, a discus throw and even weight lifting done in the space station's zero gravity environment.

Zero gravity means you can float about, without pesky gravity keeping your feet - or any other solid object - on the ground .. which makes weightlifting a cinch. I've stuck a link to a video of astronauts weightlifting one another in today's episode notes.

## **ANIMAL KINGDOM**

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If you go down to Tasmania today, you better not go alone ... and that's because feral cows are on the loose and running amok.

Yes, you heard right: feral cows.

A feral cow is a cow that's escape into the wild - and doesn't care for fences or rules or eating grass in someone else's paddock.

And the township of Lebrina near Launceston currently has a feral cow problem - with a herd of about 30 wandering about at night, causing car and tractor accidents on the roads, and knocking down pretty much every fence they come across.

Nobody seems to know who the cows belong to or how they came to be wild - or why they're on the mooooo-ve (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... ah, yes the dad joke alarm .. cut me some slack, it's a Monday afterall.

## **THE S'QUIZ**

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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 famous mountains in Canada where wildfires are burning?
2. What's the name of the great big science lab in orbit above planet Earth?
3. A herd of what sort of animal is roaming free in a town in Tasmania - terrorising locals?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Monday, July 29 .. today is International Tiger Day ... a day to celebrate this most magnificent of creatures and focus on efforts to protect and conserve them. I've stuck a link in the episode notes to a website showing how you can get involved ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Manveer from Mt Gravatt, Macy from Yass, Haven from West Albury, Heidi from Ballarat, Dolev from Chatswood, Basil from Adelaide, Tristian from Cannon Hill and Mosawir (pronounced Moz-ou-wah) from North Parramatta.

Belated shoutouts go to... Aryan from North Ryde, Albie from Maiden Gully, Juliette from Perth, Zoe from Davidson, Camden from Wundowie, Felix from Brisbane, Lucy from Adelaide and Jena from Deer Park.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... class 5H and Miss Goetz at Banyan Fields Primary School, year 4 with Mr Mahony at St Joseph's Primary School in Dungog, class 4/5M and Mr Fleming at Sutherland North Public School, class 1S and Mrs Shiel at Wallsend South Public School, class 5/6F and Miss Freshwater at Plumpton Public School and class 2/3 with Miss Mell at Magpie Primary School in Ballarat.

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. The Rocky Mountains or Rockies
2. International Space Station
3. Cows

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](mailto: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 with our special Squiz Kids Shortcut to the Modern Olympics – a ten minute deep dive on the history and origins of the great big event you see playing out in Paris at the moment.

And don't forget, every morning of the Olympics we'll be bringing you the Squiz Kids Olympic Sprint — a quick catch up on what's been happening in Paris while you've been asleep.

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