

**Brisbane battens down the hatches; Oscars fever takes LA; NRL kicks off in Vegas;
and tracking koalas by their poo.**

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 March 3

In Squiz Kids Today ... Brisbane battens down the hatches; Oscars fever takes LA; NRL kicks off in Vegas; and tracking koalas by their poo.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Australia's third largest city was put on cyclone alert last night as tropical cyclone Alfred threatened to change course and head towards Brisbane.

There were wild winds and heavy swells from the Barrier Reef down to the Gold Coast yesterday as Queensland Premier David Crisaful urged South East Queensland's 4 million residents for the very real possibility that a category 2 cyclone could cross the coast near Brisbane.

There's still a chance Alfred - which is hovering 400kms off the coast - could decide to head further out to sea. But if it does head west, forecasts suggest South East Queenslanders could be in for some wild weather from Wednesday onwards. Now excuse me while I go and clear out some gutters ..

-

There was a storm of another kind brewing on the other side of the Earth - after a meeting on Friday between US President Donald Trump and Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy went spectacularly wrong. The two men ended up arguing loudly with each other in front of the world's TV cameras, despite the point of their meeting being to try to

work out a solution to the Russia-Ukraine war. What happens next? Well, that's anyone's guess.

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 USA ... Los Angeles to be exact - where all eyes will be this morning as the annual Academy Awards ceremony takes place.

Also known as The Oscars, the Academy Awards are the trophies given to the best movies of the past 12 months.

And in the category that we're most interested in ... Best Animated Feature ... the nominees are: The Wild Robot, Flow, Inside Out 2, the Aussie film, Memoir of a Snail, and Wallace + Grommet: Vengeance Most Fowl.

So who's tipped to take home the Oscar? The smart money is on the Wild Robot. We'll know by lunch time ...

SPORT TIME

—

The bright lights of Las Vegas were good for the Raiders and Panthers yesterday, but not so good for the Warriors and Sharkies as the 2025 NRL season got underway ... on the other side of the earth.

For the second year running now - the rugby league season launch has taken place in the middle of the desert in Nevada, USA - as the sport tries to convince Americans it's a game they might want to get into. And in the two matches that happened there yesterday, the Canberra Raiders trounced the Auckland Warriors 30-8, and the Penrith Panthers beat the Cronulla Sharks 28-22.

But the weekend in sport really belonged to the Young Socceroos .. who made history in China by winning Australia's first ever Asian Cup.

The Socceroos managed to beat Saudi Arabia in a penalty shootout, thanks to the safe hands of goalie Steven Hall. Go you good things!

[CCC]

Especially for footy fans who've been counting down to kick-off... today's Classroom Companion is tackling fact vs opinion through the NRL's big Opening Round in Las Vegas!

With the NRL taking rugby league to the entertainment capital of the world, there's been plenty of hype—but how much of it is fact, and how much is opinion? This week's Classroom Companion helps students think critically about the way sports are talked about in the media.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

—

Imagine if your job was to track koalas by sniffing out their pooh? Because that's what Max - a seven year old English springer spaniel - does for a living. He's a poop-sniffing super koala-saving canine - and he patrols the eucalyptus forests nears Coffs Harbour in NSW to help park rangers track and keep an eye on the local koala population.

It's estimated that some 60,000 koalas died in the 2020 bushfires - so helping them recover is really important.

And Max is doing his bit using his schnoz to sniff out koala pooh so that park rangers can track the furry critters in the forest canopy.

Clever Max!

[BREAK]

RUOK

—

So ... the school year is well and truly underway - and no doubt there will be plenty of tests and assessments you will do this year - but here at Squiz Kids, we reckon the true measure of how good you are depends on how *kind* you are in the classroom and playground.

And that's why we've gotten together with RUOK to produce a special Squiz Kids Q+A called 'Be The Kind Kid'.

Squiz Kids from all over Australia sent questions in for Dr Hannah Brown to answer - questions like: how do I know when to ask a friend if they are ok; and how do you help a friend who seems sad.

Keep listening after today's pod and it will play straight away - or search for it any time in the podcast app or on our website.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which US city has the NRL season just kicked off?
2. In which US city will the Oscars be held this morning?
3. What's the name of the English springer spaniel who sniffs out koala poo for a living?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 3 ... it's World Wildlife Day ... plus it's also my 18th wedding anniversary .. awww.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Lexie from Forest Lake, Margie from Woodford, Jacob from Caloundra West, Summer from Karalee, Amelia from Turrumurra, Alexis from Currambine, Mila from Guyra, Annalyse from Ruse, Uchral (pron Er-Ch-Rul) from Wentworth Point, Sierra from Erskineville, Indiana from Fernvale, Lottie from Brisbane, Harvey from Geelong, Myah from Pakenham and Scarlett listening over in Hong Kong. And a special shoutout goes to Oscar from Northwoods from your mum travelling in Paris.

Belated shoutouts go to... Oliver from Port Macquarie, Bryan from Stanhope Gardens, Harrison from Ormiston, Arnold from Gubbi Gubbi Country, Charmaine from Norwest, Leo and Jake from Eltham North and Alexa-Annika listening over Cebu, Philippines.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 6Y with Miss Winks at Palmerston District Primary School, class 5/6M with Mrs McDonald at Bundaberg West State School and class 2/3Purple with Mrs Ah-Lam at Harrington Public School - and class 5-1 with Mrs Gavigan at Ivy Hill Elementary School over in Arlington Heights, USA

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Las Vegas
2. Los Angeles
3. Max

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after 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 with a Shortcut to The Food that Changed the World

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