

The sting in Cyclone Alfred's tail; Giants and Hawks win big; Moon landings and Sun missions; and the mysterious woolly mammoth mouse.

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 10

In Squiz Kids Today ... The sting in Cyclone Alfred's tail; Giants and Hawks win big; Moon landings and Sun missions; and the mysterious woolly mammoth mouse.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Roofs ripped from houses, trees torn from the ground, torrential rains that just won't let up, and more than 300,000 homes without power.

If Tropical Cyclone Alfred didn't cause enough damage as it whacked into the Queensland coast just north of Brisbane on Saturday morning, it more than made up for it yesterday showing it had a sting in its tail.

Rescuers were kept busy all day yesterday pulling people from floodwaters from Lismore in NSW right up to Hervey Bay in Queensland as more than half a metre of rain pelted down all day.

The Queensland capital, Brisbane, could only watch on helplessly as creeks rose and roads went under - with an announcement coming late in the day that up to 500 schools across the region would be closed again today. And the kids couldn't have been happier ...

The wild weather followed the first cyclone to pass over the Gold Coast and Brisbane in 50 years .. and it was scary stuff.

I live in Brisbane and barely slept Friday and Saturday nights as wild winds made the walls and windows of my house shake.

While Squiz Kids' very own Christie was forced to evacuate her Gold Coast home yesterday after torrential rains brought a massive gum tree crashing down onto the roof of her townhouse complex. As a result: there's no Classroom Companion today. Stay safe Christie!

Weather forecasters were hopeful the rains would ease and floodwaters would recede this morning ... when the big clean up will begin.

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 .. well, will you look at that, we've landed on the Moon. And that's because it's all happening up in space this week.

Last week we told you how Firefly Aerospace successfully landed a spacecraft on the surface of the Moon - and over the weekend, we saw the first photos from the lunar lander.

We also learned over the weekend that a second Moon landing last week by a company called Intuitive Machines didn't quite go to plan, with news that their spacecraft landed on its side - and won't be able to perform the experiments they had hoped for. Oh well - sometimes you have to try and fail before you succeed.

Meanwhile NASA - the US space agency, yesterday had to abort two missions that were going to lift off from planet Earth yesterday. One was to send a probe deep into space to try to discover the origins of life as we know it - so, you know, no small thing. And the other was to head towards the Sun to study how it affects the solar system.

So busy up there above our heads ...

SPORT TIME

And the AFL season got off to a cracking start at the weekend with victories for the Hawks and the Giants.

Hawthorn made easy work of last year's grand finalists, the Sydney Swans, beating the Swans at the Sydney Cricket Ground by a convincing 20 points.

It was then left to Sydney's other team, the GWS Giants to smash the Collingwood Magpies in front of a home crowd - taking out the second game of round one by 104 points to 52.

And a shout out to the Broncos and Storm - who both scored over 50 points in their first round victories in the NRL ...

How good is footy season?

WEIRD SCIENCE

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If you've ever seen the movie Ice Age, you'd know the character Manny - the woolly mammoth.

Woolly mammoths - which are like enormous hair elephants - used to walk the Earth up until about 10,000 years ago - before they went extinct.

But now a group of scientists have taken what they say is the first step in bringing the woolly mammoth back to life.

Using DNA collected from the frozen, fossilised remains of long-dead mammoths, scientists have bred a litter of tiny woolly mice.

As you can see from the video I've linked to in today's episode notes - they're mice, but not as we know them ... they have a distinctly shaggy coat - you might even say, mammoth like.

Eventually, the scientists will mix mammoth DNA with elephant DNA to create a mammoth-elephant hybrid.

Let's just hope it doesn't turn out like Jurrassic Park ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Approximately how many years ago did the woolly mammoth go extinct?

2. What is the capital city of Queensland, currently being smashed by cyclone Alfred.
3. Which Sydney AFL team won their first round match at the weekend?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 10 ... grab your ear plugs, people – it's International Bagpipe Day..

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Oscar from Cheltenham, Zoe from West Albury, Ted from Wandana Heights, Thea from Wellington Point, Willow and Eve from Rose Bay and Vanessa from Springvale.

Belated shoutouts go to... Hannah from Wagga Wagga, Rose and Elijah from Holsworthy, Jonathan from Darling Point, Ella from Salisbury Heights, Celina from Marsfield and Nicolás from Brighton Le Sands.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... year 6 class at Oran Park Primary School and happy birthday to your teacher Mrs Carr for yesterday, to Ms Fernandes' class at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Springvale and also a happy birthday to your teacher, class 6W with Miss Willans at Riverview State School, class 5M with Miss Jenkins at MacKillop Catholic College in Mount Peter and lastly year 5/6 'Senior Elliotts' with Mrs Ash at Avoca State School in Bundaberg.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 10,000 years
2. Brisbane
3. GWS Giants

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 super excellent episode of Squiz The World - where we take you on a virtual excursion to a different country – and tomorrow, we're off to Peru ... ooh. I wonder if we'll bump into Paddington Bear?

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