

Piastrri takes the Podium; a Mongolian mega-claw; a built-to-last lightbulb; and the Sharktopus swims the seas.

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 Monday, March 24

In Squiz Kids Today ... Piastrri takes the Podium; a Mongolian mega-claw; a built-to-last lightbulb; and the Sharktopus swims the seas.

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

THE LOWDOWN

A week is a long time in fast cars. After a disappointing ninth-place finish at last weekend's Melbourne Grand Prix, Aussie Formula One driver Oscar Piastrri has bounced back in spectacular style — winning round two of the championship in Shanghai, China.

Driving for McLaren, Piastrri started in pole position — his first-ever in Formula One — after setting a blistering lap record of 30.641 seconds in qualifying. And he didn't let that lead go, powering through the 56-lap race to take the chequered flag ahead of teammate Lando Norris, who'd won in Melbourne just a week earlier.

It marks Piastrri's third career win — and McLaren's dream start to the season, with back-to-back victories from their two young stars.

Also making headlines was 22-year-old Aussie Jack Doohan, who crossed the line in 14th place for team Alpine — his first-ever Formula One finish. Unfortunately, a 10-second penalty saw him bumped down to 16th in the final standings. Still, a big milestone for the son of five-time motorcycle world champion Mick Doohan.

A thrilling race, a record lap, and a win for the Aussies — not a bad weekend at the office.

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 Mongolia—where in the Gobi desert, one of the world's richest sources of dinosaur fossils, palaeontologists have uncovered the largest complete dinosaur claws ever found; measuring a whopping 30 centimetres long...Imagine your school ruler, but as a fearsome curved hook. Terrifying

Now, most dino claws were made of keratin—the same stuff as your fingernails—so they don't usually survive millions of years. But these ones? Perfectly preserved for, get this... 90 million years!

The claw belonged to a newly identified dino species with a mouthful of a name: *Duonychus tsogtbaatari*. Like a T-Rex, it had just two fingers on each hand... but *unlike* T-Rex, it was a gentler giant—a plant-munching herbivore using those impressive claws to grasp at branches and leaves, not prey.

Researchers from Japan's Hokkaido University reckon it stretched three metres long and weighed around 270 kilograms.

Prehistoric power meets plant-based lifestyle. Love it.

BIGGEST FURTHEST LONGEST

Speaking of really old things... again...this story shines a light on how things used to be built to last... literally.

Because, in a fire station in California, a bulb that was switched on 124 years ago is still burning. It's survived two world wars, the moon landing, and more than a few fire station renovations—but the bulb? Still going strong.

Known as the "Centennial Bulb," it's clocked over one million hours of light. That's a Guinness World Record and then some.

So what's its secret? Scientists don't know for sure, but unlike some modern globes with tungsten filaments (the filament is the bit in old style light globes that heats and lights up when electricity passes through) this one has a carbon filament. It handles heat better— so the fact that it's hardly ever been switched off probably helps.

So next time you're changing a globe at home for the third time this year, spare a thought for the lucky firefighters who haven't touched this one since your great-grandparents were kids.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Have you ever had legs so tired you couldn't take another step? Now imagine having eight of them. Exhausting, right?

Well, off the coast of Aotearoa New Zealand, back in 2023, one very clever octopus seemed to think so too—so it hitched a ride... on a shark! Yep, a video has emerged taken by researchers who spotted a mako shark swimming along with what looked like a bright orange blob stuck to its head. But then the blob moved—and they realised it had tentacles!

Turns out, it was a Māori octopus—the biggest octopus species in the Southern Hemisphere. And the scientists nicknamed the duo a “sharktopus” (because of course they did), and both animals appeared healthy and unbothered.

And with makos reaching speeds of up to 74 kilometres an hour, this eight-armed intruder had probably just made a really good choice of a ride share. And yes, of course, there's a link to video in the episode notes.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which team do Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris drive for?
2. How long had those Mongolian dinosaur claws been preserved for?
3. What is the name of the light bulb that's been burning for over 100 years?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 24 ... On this day, way back in 1874, the world-famous escape artist Harry Houdini was born. Houdini wowed crowds by escaping from handcuffs while hanging upside down in a tank full of water — and that was just one of his many death-defying stunts. But did you know he was also on a mission to sniff out scammers? He dedicated much of his life to exposing tricksters and frauds who were out to steal people's hard-earned money. Hmm, sounds like he would've got on with Squiz-E the Newshound!

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow...

Eshaal from Wentworth Point, Layla from Kalgoorlie, Harvey from Mount Riverview, Willa from Fitzroy North, Eloise from Carseldine, Georgie from Merewether, Hamish and Ciaran from Canberra, Indie and Ollie from Glenbrook, Sophie from Rolleston, Amelia from Forest Lake, Lylah from Wagga Wagga, Anaum from Lakemba, Chloe from Bondi Beach and Elly from Innaloo.

Belated shoutouts go to... Robyn and Neve from St Clair and Franca listening over in Singapore.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 3M with Mrs Miller at Lake Clarendon State School, class 2WA with Miss W at Methodist Ladies' College in Claremont, class 6CR with Mrs Crooks at Yarrabilba State School, the students with Miss Neil and Miss Jarvis at Killarney Heights Public school, class 1S with Mr Shanks at Northcross Christian School in Ryde and class Cassowary Blue with Ms Falzon-Smith at Calamvale Community College.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. McLaren
2. 90 million years
3. The Centennial Bulb - centum is the Latin word for 100, and the ennial relates to annual or year.

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 audio adventure to The Netherlands.

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