

**Cheers for a Chicken Jockey; Alaska's bin-busting bears; a Peter Pan cane toad;  
and British slang goes bonkers.**

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, April 9 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Cheers for a Chicken Jockey; Alaska's bin-busting bears; a Peter Pan cane toad; and British slang goes bonkers.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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If I start The Lowdown today with the words "Chicken Jockey", I reckon a lot of you will know exactly what I'm talking about...

Yep — The Minecraft Movie is here — and despite some critics calling it a disaster, it's gone and smashed a record like a pickaxe through stone.

In its opening weekend, the movie raked in a jaw-dropping \$493 million Aussie dollars — more than doubling the record set by The Super Mario Bros. Movie in 2023, making it the biggest video game movie launch ever.

Experts say part of its success is down to how it mimics viral short-form video, with fast-paced action and "clippable moments" — especially a scene featuring Jack Black and a certain surprise entrance dropping into a boxing ring (no spoilers).... And the crowd loses it. Videos of cinema-goers cheering, filming, and posting online have gone viral.

Some adults weren't impressed by the chaos, posting online complaints about the cheering and applause. But for Minecraft fans? Well, let's just say it looks like an epic win.

## **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 waaaay up north, in Alaska, where a group of grizzly bears has been given a job... they’re trying to break into rubbish bins

Yep — the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage has teamed up with the state’s waste department to test brand-new bins. The goal? To make sure they’re tough enough to stand up to a determined bear with a nose for snacks.

So, why’s that important? Well, once a bear learns that bins mean food, it can start returning to campsites, neighbourhoods, or rubbish dumps. That’s risky for people — and bad news for bears. Bears that get too used to humans or human food can become aggressive, and sometimes have to be put down.

So, even though no bin is totally bear-proof, making them strong and hard to open helps keep bears wild — and people safe.

And yes — I’ve popped a link to the testing video in your episode notes. It’s a must-watch if you want to see a bear with a bin on its head... or is that just me?

## **WEIRD SCIENCE**

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At Squiz Kids, we’re big on raising awareness about invasive species — and one of Australia’s worst offenders is the toxic, warty, and frankly not-so-cute cane toad. They’ve been spreading fast across the country, and current control methods — like catching and freezing — are, well... a bit rough. And we’re not exactly winning.

But Aussie scientists are on the case — and they’ve come up with a mind-blowing new approach that could change everything.

Using a technique called gene editing, where scientists carefully change or remove a small part of an animal’s instructions for growing, they’ve stopped cane toad eggs from turning into adult toads. The result? Tadpoles that never grow up, nicknamed “Peter Pan toads”, like the boy in the fairy tale.

Even wilder? These super-tadpoles are hungry... gobbling up the eggs of their brothers and sisters and eating three times as many cane toad eggs as normal. And they mostly ignore frog eggs, which is great news for native species.

With over 200 million cane toads in Australia, this new method could help bring the population under control.

Trials in the wild begin later this year — and if it works, it could be a toad-ally clever solution.

## **POP CULTURE CORNER**

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If you thought that last story was proper bonkers, you're going to lose the plot over this one...

Once upon a time, it was Aussie and British kids copying American words — like calling lollies “candy” or saying “awesome” and “gotten.” But now? It’s American kids who are going mad for British slang!

Thanks to the rise of British shows like The Great British Bake Off and Peppa Pig — and let’s be honest, the internet — heaps of US teens are picking up words like “queue” instead of “line”, calling something “cheeky” instead of silly, and saying “wonky”, “nutter”, or “dodgy” when things get weird.

The fastest-growing word of all? Bonkers. Which, let’s face it, is a bit bonkers in itself.

And, don’t forget that Bluey is the reason some American kids are now saying “dunny” instead of bathroom.

So, what Aussie word should we get them saying next? Mozzie? Brolly? Bogan? I reckon trackie dacks deserves its moment in the spotlight.

## **PETITION**

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Just a quick message before we hop into the quiz ... a huge thank you to everyone who has signed our petition calling on the Australian government to fund digital literacy education in our schools ...and help save Squiz-E the Newshound.

Thanks to YOU! we hit the 10,000 mark over the weekend - but we really want to hit 20,000 by the time the election rolls around in just under a month .. so if you haven’t signed, do me a favour and pop on over to the Squiz Kids website - [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au) and add your name to this very important cause. And tell your friends to do it too.

## **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. Which two words are sending Minecraft movie viewers bonkers?
2. How many cane toads are estimated to be in Australia?
3. Which words do I think should be introduced to Americans (I'll give you a hint, they are very comfy.)

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Wednesday, April 9 ... National Unicorn Day! Did you know the unicorn is the national animal of Scotland? That's right – a magical creature with a twisty horn and flowing mane is one of Scotland's official symbols. Some people thought unicorns were real, thanks to travellers bringing back stories – and narwhal tusks!

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

Andrew from Hawthorn East, Julian from Yuggera Country, Sumaya from Point Cook and Alex from the Gold Coast.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 4 Blue with Miss B at Mount Saint Patrick College in Murwillumbah, class Bunburung 2 with Miss Hickey at Googong Public School, class 5SM with Ms Malone at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Koorringal and lastly class Golden Bears with Ms G at Rocketship Rising Stars Academy in San Jose, California.

And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over school holiday break, send us your birthday shout-out by THIS Friday April 11\*, and we'll make sure to include you in the weekly Quizzes that will be going out each Friday of the school hols.

## **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Chicken Jockey

2. 200 million
3. Trackie Dacks

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](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

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