

Dire wolves back from the dead, or not?; Perth girl breaks running record; election fake news on the rise; and an epic new theme park.

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 Thursday, April 10 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Dire wolves back from the dead, or not?; Perth girl breaks running record; election fake news on the rise; and an epic new theme park.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Brought back from extinction, or just a bit of tricky science ... that was the question swirling around the scientific community yesterday following news scientists had brought an extinct wolf species back from the dead.

You've all heard of or seen the movie Jurassic Park, right? Where scientists find ancient dinosaur DNA and bring the big ol' reptiles back to life ..

Well there's a bunch of scientists keen to do it in real life. You might remember we talked a couple of weeks back about a woolly mammoth mouse being created by these scientists - where they spliced woolly mammoth DNA with mouse DNA.

Well they've gone and done it again by taking DNA from a old tooth fossil belonging to a long dead dire wolf and spliced it with the DNA of a grey wolf to create an animal that looks very much like the dire wolf - which went extinct over 12,000 years ago.

What's a dire wolf? Think of a wolf - but bigger and whiter. They're big in Game of Thrones.

Only problem is: some scientists are now disputing whether it's really a case of bringing a species back from extinction - given that it's simply splicing DNA from an extinct species with a living one.

The company behind the dire wolf de-extinction says it now has plans to bring back the dodo and even the Tassie tiger.

Watch this space ..

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and because it's almost the last day of term 1 - we're landing in Orlando, in the United States, where a new theme park has opened up called Epic Universe.

And if the videos coming out of there are any indication - it most certainly is epic..

It's believed to be the largest theme park in the world ... and just as well, because it has to squeeze in a lot ... there's Super Nintendo World with Donkey Kong and Bowser, a whole section of the park given over to the How To Train Your Dragon movie series, complete with a life size Toothless - there's a whole section dedicated to the Fantastic Beasts movies - plus a new series of Harry Potter-themed interactive rides and a brand new monsters attraction featuring Frankenstein and werewolves.

The park is believed to have cost more than 8 billion dollars to create ... and opens to the public in May.

Packing my bags as we speak...

SPORT TIME

What is going on in Australian junior athletics? Every time I read the news, it seems like a new record has fallen. Last month we had Gout Gout and Lachie Kennedy breaking all sorts of speed records - and yesterday it was the turn of Leah O'Brien - a 17 year old from Perth who broke a 57 year old record in the 100 metre sprint.

Running the 100m in a lightning fast 11.14 seconds, Leah set a new Australian record for under 18 girls.

The Australian Athletics Championships kick off in Perth today where more records could fall. The championships are where our best runners, high-jumpers, long-jumpers, pole vaulters, discus throwers, javelin chuckers and tunnel ballers will compete - all with an eye on Brisbane Olympics in 2032.

Ok - maybe not tunnel ballers ... i may have made that bit up. I was quite a good tunnel baller in my day ...

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and this week, his nose is sniffing all over the place as social media gets flooded with mis- and disinformation ahead of the Australian Federal election.

Fake news and incorrect claims and flat-out lies tend to spike whenever there's an election, as people try to influence the way we all vote. And so - with the May 3 poll only weeks away, clever Squiz Kids should be telling their parents to not believe everything they see online ... just because something is posted to Facebook or Instagram or YouTube doesn't mean it's real. Even if it's a piece of information or content we wildly agree with or hope to be true - we should always do as Squiz E tells us: and that's to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see online. And that's ESPECIALLY important when it comes to deciding who to vote for ...

PETITION

Just a quick message before let you all off on holidays ... with only three weeks to go before the election - we only have a small window to convince our political leaders that learning how to think critically about the flood of information we're all exposed to online is a vital skill - and one that's being taught by Squiz-E.

If you haven't yet done it - join the 10-and-a-half thousand other Aussies who have signed our petition calling on the Australian government to fund digital literacy. The link is in the episode notes - or you can find a link on the Squiz Kids website - squizkids.com.au

We really appreciate your support ...

THE S'QUIZ

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 long-extinct wolf species that scientists claim to have brought back from the dead?
2. Super fast girl Leah O'Brien broke the u18 girls sprinting record yesterday across a distance of how many metres?
3. Name the How To Train Your Dragon dragon that's friends with Hiccup and one of the star attractions at a new theme park in the US...

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, April 10 ... today is Hug Your Dog Day ... look out Louis ... I'm coming in for a cuddle!

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

Josie and Mikayla from Harcourt, Edman from Belmont, Vivian from Gordon, Maddie from Meadow Springs and Rael from Bronte.

A belated shoutout goes to Harshini (pron Har-shi-knee) from Canberra.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... year 3S with Mrs Stansen at MacArthur Anglican School in Cobbity, rooms 12 and 13 with Mr Bell and Miss L at Edwardstown Primary School, years 4, 5 and 6 with Mrs Currie at Dunoon Public School and class F7 with Mr Salvaire at Hammond Park Primary School.

And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over school holiday break, send us your birthday shout-out by TOMORROW, 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. Dire wolf
2. 100m
3. Toothless

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 the last daily podcast for the term ... we're taking a two week break - but don't fret - we have a whole host of excellent Easter content planned for you during the break ... including our famous Easter Joke-A-Thon, our renowned Bumper School Holiday Quizzes - and a whole lot more. Just make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your fave podcasting app and all the content will magically appear ...

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