

**Farewell Pope Francis; Wild woodpecker rampage; Bear tackles a slippery dip; and
Valerie the adventurous dachshund is found!**

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, April 28 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Farewell Pope Francis; Wild woodpecker rampage; Bear tackles a slippery dip; and Valerie the adventurous dachshund is found!

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

THE LOWDOWN

Welcome back to another school term of Squiz Kids - we can't wait to get stuck into Term 2 with you all ... and we start the new term with the biggest news story that happened over the Easter Break and that's the death of the Pope.

You might have seen or heard over the Easter break that at the age of 88 - the man who was the head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis - passed away.

And over the weekend, more than 400,000 people gathered in Rome, in Italy, for the Pope's funeral.

There were kings and queens and presidents and prime ministers. There were cardinals and high-ranking church officials - but most of all - there were what are called pilgrims. Ordinary people - many Christians, some not - who wanted to say farewell to the Pope.

Now the process begins to name a new Pope from among the Catholic Church's leaders from all over the world. And we'll be keeping you up to date with that process too as it takes place...

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The other big news story over the Easter break was the return of Valerie - arguably, the world's most famous sausage dog.

You might remember we talked about Valerie before in the podcast: how she ran away from her owners during a camping trip on South Australia's Kangaroo Island.

Well - after 529 days of being lost - Valerie was found at the weekend - and she's now being returned to her owners.

That's almost an entire year and a half that Valerie was roaming about Kangaroo Island by herself. What an adventure she's been on! I mean: what did she eat? Where was she finding water? Where did she sleep? So many questions.

She'll be able to reveal all to her owners this week when she is reunited with them. The Adventures of Valerie .. they should make it into a movie ...

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 ... England - where old and new forms of energy are on display.

Starting with the world coal carrying championships - which took place last week in the region of Yorkshire - the traditional home of coal mining in the United Kingdom. People from all over the country whacked heavy sacks of coal on their backs and took part in a race through the township of Gawthorpe - to celebrate the town's coal mining past and raise money for charity.

Meanwhile - making headlines on the English coast not far away, as a more modern, renewable source of energy, are a bunch of underwater propellor turbines - using the movement of the tides to turn the blades and generate electricity. Just genius!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

If Valerie the adventurous dachshund has been making all the animal headlines here in Australia over the Easter break - it's been a combo of weird and wonderful animal antics making headlines over in the United States.

There's been the wild bear that was filmed using a family's slippery dip for a little ride in the state of Connecticut ... there's video of that in the episode notes - there's the community in the nearby state of Massachusetts that's been terrorised by a bunch of woodpeckers landing on cars and pecking their way through side mirrors and windscreens - yikes - and there's been the annual dog surfing championships in Florida - where Sami the chiweenie successfully defended his 2024 title. What's a chi-weenie? It's a cross between a chihuahua and a dachshund of course ... weiner being the slang term in the US for sausage. What is it with sausage dogs and the news today?

POP CULTURE CORNER

Hands up if you were one of the many thousands of Aussie kids who went to see the Minecraft movie over the Easter break?

Me too! Wasn't it awesome? Isn't Jack Black the funniest?

Well - we weren't the only ones ... the movie was at the top of the box office for the third week in a row last week ... which means it was the most popular movie for three weeks running.

And as Christie told us before Easter - the movie is continuing to cause some very whacky behaviour .. with cinema owners across the country reporting wild scenes in the cinemas when the chicken jockey appears ... that's a baby zombie riding a chicken - with popcorn, toilet paper and even frozen chooks being hurled about the theatre.

Hmmm ... maybe just quietly munch on your choc-top and give a holler ... there's no need to be chucking stuff about the place. Think of the poor soul that has to come in and clean up ...

PETITION:

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A quick message to the adults listening ... there's only five sleeps to go before the Federal Election - which means five sleeps to send a message to Canberra that you care about the amount of fake news, unsafe material and misinformation kids are being exposed to online. If you haven't already- jump on over to our website: squizkids.com.au to sign our petition and join the 11,000 others who have done so already - or if you're voting this week and you get button holed by a politician wanting your vote: tell them how important you think media literacy education is for our kids.

They deserve nothing less.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which Italian city did the Pope's funeral take place?
2. People taking part in a charity race in Yorkshire were carrying sacks of what on their back?
3. What's the name of the adventurous dachshund who was finally found by rescuers after 529 days on the run on Kangaroo Island?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, April 28 ... it's Pay It Forward Day ... a day to perform a random act of kindness - to spread happiness and goodwill around the world. Ahhhh.

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Kylie from Forest Lake, Ruby from Paraburdoo, Calvin from Thornton, Mia from Fernvale, Shanyu from Oran Park, Ethan from Hazelbrook, Yokin listening over in Shanghai, China and Manon listening over in Irvington, New York.

Belated shoutout go to... Chloe from Northcote, Maple from Belmont, James from Newmarket and Veda from Bundaberg.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 6A with Mrs McIver at Kallangur State School, class 6V with Miss Vanatelier at Livingstone Primary School, room 17 with Mrs Hutch at Hawthorndene Primary School, class 5/6 Stingrays with Mr Simone at Mount Riverview Primary School and class 5C with Ms Corey at St Johns Anglican College in Forest Lake.

If you celebrated a birthday over the recent school holiday break your shout out was announced in the Bumper Holiday Quizzes that went to air - have a listen wherever you get your podcasts!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Rome
2. Coal
3. Valerie

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 Squiz Kids Shortcut on Australian Women War Heroes.

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