

## **Floods and drought cause chaos; Origin debutants step up; record breaking run across Australia; and could the Pope visit Australia?**

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 Wednesday, May 21 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Floods and drought cause chaos; Origin debutants step up; record breaking run across Australia; and could the Pope visit Australia?

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Forty schools across the NSW Hunter and Mid North regions were closed yesterday after a major flood warning was issued in the face of torrential rains that saw rivers rise and residents evacuated from their homes.

Damaging winds brought down trees and powerlines, with the State Emergency Service receiving more than 2,000 calls for help yesterday morning - while on the coast, huge surf pounded beaches around Port Macquarie causing widespread erosion.

Residents of Taree - on the Manning River in NSW - were told to evacuate their homes yesterday morning as a low-pressure system refused to budge - instead throwing more than 200mm of rain, causing rivers in the area to start to break their banks.

Meanwhile - it was a completely different story half way across the country - as farmers in South Australia started selling off livestock in the face of the worst drought in decades.

A drought is when it doesn't rain for a really long time - and for obvious reasons, that makes farming really difficult.

Rainfall in parts of South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia has been the lowest on record in the past couple of months - forcing farmers there to buy food for their livestock - or in some cases, sell them off.

Many towns are on water restrictions - with reports that water is even being trucked in to parts of the Adelaide Hills to fill up empty water tanks.

Stay safe out there people.

## ***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 in Rome - in Italy - again ... as the new Pope continues to make headlines having just delivered his first ever Papal mass.

Mass - for those who aren’t familiar - is a Catholic religious ceremony. And Pope Leo performed his first mass as the head of the church in St Peter’s Square in Rome in front of some 200,000 people. That’s a big crowd.

As well the heap of ordinary folk in attendance, there were kings and queens and , world political leaders - including our own Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese - who had a meeting with the Pope afterwards and invited him to come to Australia.

Meanwhile, the Pope used his sermon to call for world peace .. and maybe - just maybe - US President Donald Trump was listening - with reports he spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday about bringing an end to the war in the Ukraine - which has been going now for over three years.

Here’s hoping ...

## ***SPORT TIME***

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Look out NSW and Queensland kids ! Look on in confusion kids in every other state !Because it’s officially State of Origin time - where grown adults in Australia’s two rugby league-obsessed states set aside all rational thought and become completely unhinged for a few weeks. It all kicked off on Monday with the announcement of the NSW Blues and Qld Maroons teams - the big news from which was the number of debutants named in each side.

In sport speak: a debutant is a player who is chosen in a team for the first time.

Maroons coach Billy Slater has chosen three debutants for Queensland - including Sydney Rooster Robert Toia - who's only played 10 games of professional footy - Gold Coast Titan Beau Fermor and Melbourne Storm player, Trent Lee-airo, who told media on Monday it seemed like yesterday he was playing footy in the backyard and dreaming of Origin selection.

Meanwhile the Blues have tipped one debutant into the mix - in the shape of Canterbury Bulldog, Max King - who spent two years off with an injured foot.

You see? Even if you suffer an injury setback, with determination and hard work, you can still realise your sporting dreams.

## **SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES**

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Speaking of sporting dreams ...can we just stop and give a great big Squiz Kids Salute to English ultra-marathon runner, William Goodge - who has just smashed the Guinness World record for running across Australia.

William set off from Cottesloe Beach in Perth just over a month ago and ran day and night for 35 whole days to arrive in Bondi Beach in Sydney on Monday afternoon - making him the fastest person to ever run across our country.

He beat the previous record by four whole days, after completing the equivalent of - get this - not one, not two but two-and-a-half marathons EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Hundreds of runners turned out in Sydney on Monday morning to run the last five kilometres with William - who dedicated the run to his mum who died of cancer seven years ago - and used the enormous physical feat to raise money for an Aussie cancer charity.

William Goodge: Squiz Kids Salutes you.

## **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. How many debutants have been chosen for the Queensland Maroon State of Origin team?
2. In which Italian city has the Pope just conducted his first mass?

3. How many days did it take William Goodge to run across Australia? Was it a) 55 days b) 172 days or c) 35 days?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Wednesday, May 21 ... today is the start of the Crankworx Mountain Biking Festival in Cairns ... and it's also the anniversary of Amelia Earhart becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean - back in 1932. Just remarkable.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...Indie from Adelaide, Eric from Vermont South, Grace from Koolunga, Chloe from Hawthorn East, Milena from Chinchilla, Harry from Exeter and Parker and Estelle from Kurri Kurri.

Belated shoutouts go to Charlie from Ivanhoe, Koby from Eglington and Eadie, Elektra, Max, Lizzie, Sisika, Lochie, Ledger and Noah - all from Exeter.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Emmaus Class with Mrs Spruce at All Saints' College in Maitland, class 4L literacy with Mr Loker at Pymble Ladies College in Sydney, class 4/6A Magpies with Mrs Murphy at Albury North Public School and class 5E with Mrs Edwards at Burleigh Heads State School.

And a *reminder* ... All Classroom Shoutout requests we receive during the month of May will go into a draw to have Bryce pay a virtual visit .. yes that's right ... Bryce will beam into the classroom of one lucky school that submits its classroom shout out this month. And he might have a book pack under my arm to give away to you too ...

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

1. Three
2. Rome
3. 35

Otherwise ... 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.