

## **Winter solstice with a bang; Rewilding Rwanda's rhinos; Nudie swim in Hobart; and Labubu craze hits fever pitch.**

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 June 23 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Winter solstice with a bang; Rewilding Rwanda's rhinos; Nudie swim in Hobart; and Labubu craze hits fever pitch.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Did Saturday feel like a really short day? Did you have a sinking suspicion that the sun rose and fell a little more quickly than usual? Well that's because it was the Winter Solstice .. the shortest day of the year - or the day of the year with the least amount of daylight.

It marks the middle point of the year, seasonally speaking. Meaning - from here until summer, the days will get a little the teensiest big longer each day as the weather turns the teensiest bit warmer each day.

In outer space terms: the winter solstice is when the south pole is tilted at its most acute angle away from the sun. Hence the general chilliness. Conversely - which is a fancy way of saying 'on the opposite side of things' - the north pole is pointing directly at the Sun - meaning they have the longest day of the year up there in the northern hemisphere.

And to mark the winter solstice here in Australia: Mother Nature really turned on the winter chill in Australia - with record breaking low temperatures, flurries of snow, dustings of frost and all-round brrrrrrrr conditions across the south and east of the country.

Meanwhile: the summer solstice lived up to expectations in the northern hemisphere. Record crowds gathered at Stonehenge in England to watch the sunrise, as the longest day of the year coincided with the hottest day of the year and 32 degree temperatures. Paris was heaving with record crowds for the annual Fete de la Musique - where bands and DJs and musicians play on footpaths and town squares all over the city. And across the United States, Americans braced themselves for a week of sweltering temperatures as something called a 'heat dome' settled over the continent.

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And you're going to see and hear lots of news around today about the United States dropping bombs on nuclear enrichment facilities in the country of Iran. It's a significant development as tensions in the Middle East increase - and it will dominate the news all week, without a doubt - but just remember: it's all happening a long way away from us - and while it's concerning, there's nothing for us to worry about on our island down here on the other side of the earth.

### ***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 Rwanda - a mountainous country in north-western Africa - famous for gorillas - and now famous for rewilding rhinos.

Wait - what does re-wilding mean?

Let me explain.

A conservation group in South Africa has been breeding southern white rhinos on a farm. The southern white rhino is an endangered species. And now that they're fully grown and need more space, they're being transported across the African continent to national parks in different countries - including Rwanda. From captivity to the wild. Re-wilding.

Some 70 rhinos were bundled up in individual crates, craned onto trucks, deposited into planes and flown north to Rwanda where they were trucked into their new home, a national park which has a patrol of sniffer dogs keeping poachers away.

Poachers are people who illegally hunt animals.

It's hoped the rhinos will flourish in their new home - and with a recent bunch of re-wildlings having had 11 baby rhinos already: things are looking pretty good.

### **POP CULTURE CORNER**

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They're small, they're furry, they have nine sharp teeth and a cheeky grin. And the world is losing its mind over them.

I'm talking about Labubus - the latest plush toy craze that has flooded social media and seen crowds queue for hours in front of shopping centres to get their hands on.

Designed in Hong Kong and created in China, the Labubu has shown up on the belts of NBA players, pop stars and celebrities .. fuelling a pop culture frenzy that rivals the Beanie Babies, Tamagotchi and even Pokemon.

It's all part of what's called the blind-box toy market ... so called because you buy the box without knowing exactly which Labubu is inside .. and get this: sales of Labubu around the world have topped out at \$21 billion Aussie dollars.

My oh my ...

### **BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

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So we know from the Lowdown that the winter solstice brought some crazy cold weather to us here in Australia ... the sort of weather that makes you want to rug up in your warmest clothes and slippers and stay snug inside.

Which is why 3000 people woke at dawn in Hobart on Saturday, took off all their clothes and went swimming in the freezing waters of the Derwent River.

In what organisers say is the biggest nudie swim the state has ever seen - 3,000 brave souls stripped down to their birthday suits and plunged into the icy waters - to celebrate the winter solstice and to mark the end of an arts festival in Tasmania called Dark Mofo.

People who did it said they felt energised by the naked swim. Personally: there are not enough cups of warm Milo in the world to make me do that...

### **BREAK**

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It's a big day for us at Squiz Kids today as we set off later this morning for our Squiz Kids Q+A with the Governor General, Sam Mostyn.

A huge thanks to all of the kids who sent in questions for the GG ... you're all so clever! We've whittled it down to a handful that we will be asking her when she takes the Q+A hotseat in a couple of hours.

The special podcast will drop next Tuesday, July 1. Mark your diaries. You won't want to miss it ...

### **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. True or false .. the winter solstice occurs when the south pole is at its furthest point from the Sun?
2. Which country in Africa, starting with R - have more than 70 rhinos bred on a farm been sent to live in?
3. Name the plush toy that is sending shoppers into a frenzy around the globe.

### **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Monday June 23 ... and this morning will see the final, tie-breaking championship winning game played in the NBA as the Indiana Pacers and Oklahoma City Thunder face off to see who will hold the trophy aloft this year ...

Plus it's a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Declan from Oran Park, David from Ashmont, Tohi from Canberra, Oliver from Templestowe, Eve from Blackheath, Aaron from Newcastle, James from Orange, Sidak from Forest Lake, Elsie from Indooroopilly, Trevor from Bolwarra, Leo from Scarborough, Jeffrey from Kensington and Rosie who is currently road tripping around the Northern Territory.

Belated shoutout go to ... Danil from Cherrybrook, Leah from Gippsland and Nick from Manly Vale.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 4S with Ms Bartlett at St Clement of Rome Primary School in Bulleen, class 6E with Ms Crawley at Blackburn Lake Primary School and class F3 Flower with Ms Mahsa at the Alefba Farsi School in St Ives.

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

1. True
2. Rwanda
3. Labubu

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 with a special Squiz The World episode as we hop into the Squiz Kids Super Fast Supersonic JetLiner to pay a virtual visit to Cuba ... time to get your salsa on people ...

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