

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 30 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Australia has an inland sea; Latvia's maggots to the rescue; Grizzly bear visits the dentist; and Squiz Kids school holiday content.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

---

Here's a question to get your brain cranking on this fine Monday morning ..

Does Australia have an inland sea in the middle of the desert in the centre of the country?

Well - usually, no, it doesn't. But right now, it does.

And that's because in a place called Kati Thanda - or Lake Eyre as it was called by Australia's European settlers - rain that fell in Queensland during Cyclone Alfred four months ago has finally made its way across the desert and is filling up a once bone dry, ginormous natural basin.

Yes - that's right. The big cyclone that ripped through Brisbane in February and dumped a year's worth of rain on the Queensland outback is still having an effect on the Aussie landscape - transforming what is usually a barren salt flat into a thriving ecosystem.

Shrimp and crustaceans have started to appear in the water, fish numbers have suddenly skyrocketed, tiny marsupials have started to multiply as plants and wildflowers pop up out of the ground as far as the eye can see - and with all this new life has come millions and millions of migratory birds - traveling from as far away as Japan and Russia to feed and to breed.

The result is a place that is usually lifeless has become a bustling, thriving explosion of life - in one of the most incredible transformations the world has ever seen.

I've stuck a link to a video news report about it in today's episode notes ..

## ***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 Latvia – which is a tiny country in eastern Europe - on the border with Russia - where maggots are being used by a local council to help process garbage.

If you're eating breakfast - you might want to brace yourself ...

You know how flies are always hanging around garbage bins? That's because they're looking for rotting food to lay their eggs in. When those eggs hatch, they hatch as maggots - teeny tiny little squirmy larvae. Maggots feast on rotting food, helping to break it down.

It's totally gross - but a really important part of the bio-life cycle.

So now a local council in Latvia is breeding flies, which lay about 500 eggs every three weeks, and then sticking the maggots that are laid directly into the food waste that people chuck in their bins.

So the maggots do all the garbage waste processing for the council.

Get this: in the capital of Vilnius, the waste processing plant there breeds flies which produce about three million maggots every month, who, between them, chomp through about 11 tonnes of food waste.

Amazing. And gross. But mostly amazing.

## **ANIMAL KINGDOM**

---

Have you ever heard the expression ‘a bear with a sore head’? You might have heard your parents or teachers say it about you - or themselves - when you’re being grumpy or painful ...

Well - then spare a thought for Tundra, the 360 kilogram Alaskan brown bear, who has had a tooth ache for the past few months that nothing was able to fix.

Tundra lives in a zoo in Minnesota in the United States - and last week - vets at the zoo pulled off a world first – putting the big fella under a giant amount of anaesthetic and getting him on the operating table to stick a bear-sized crown on his aching tooth.

A crown is a dental implant that sits over the top of a broken tooth and protects it.

And because Tundra is such a big strong fella - the crown was made of titanium - which is a super-strong metal - and silver in colour.

So now when he smiles, he looks like a twelve foot tall hairy bear rapper.

Respect.

I’ve stuck a video of the procedure in today’s episode notes.

## **GG + HOLIDAY PROMO**

---

Has the Governor General of Australia met the King and been to Buckingham Palace? What’s her favourite AFL team? And most importantly of all: can she ban homework? Those questions and many more will be answered tomorrow when part one of the Squiz Kids Q+A with GG Sam drops on this very podcast feed.

Teachers: this is a great way to bring the civics curriculum to life in the classroom. Kids: this is a great chance to get to know the woman who represents the King here in Australia - and understand a bit more about how our system of government works.

Part one drops tomorrow, part two on Wednesday - and then the full video will drop on the Squiz Kids YouTube channel on Thursday. Get. Involved.

And while we're on the subject of upcoming content ... make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your favourite podcasting app so you don't miss out on our excellent Winter School Holiday content starting next week ... We'll kick off with a Winter Movie Guide on Monday, and then have Squiz Kids Brain Teasers every day thereafter – where Christie posts a riddle in the morning and the answer in the afternoon. Genius!

And while we're usually a podcast, these school holidays Christie's jumping on screen on Fridays to answer kids' weirdest science questions in our brand-new video series, *Squiz Kids Science Shorts*.

Find out why we fart and whether a bigger brain really makes you smarter — but only on YouTube. Subscribe to *Squiz Kids* on YouTube and don't miss a single thing!

## **THE S'QUIZ**

-----

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

1. Kati Thanda in the middle of Australia is also known by what Anglicised name?
2. What super-strong metal was used to create a crown for Tundra the bear's new tooth crown?
3. In which country in Eastern Europe are maggots being used to process food waste?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

-----

It's Monday June 30 ... today the first ball is served at Wimbledon, in England, as two weeks of tennis on the famous grass courts is about to begin .. it's also the start of Queensland school holidays

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Ciara from Ganmain, Connor from Greenfield Park, Isaac from Camp Hill, Grace from Tennyson Point, Olivia from Oran Park, Sylvie from Bethanga and Imsaal listening over in Abuja, Nigeria!

Belated shoutouts go to... Delta from Westmeadows, Evie from Bulleen, Lucas from Ashbury, Jasmine from Spotswood and Sophia from Holland Park.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... students in year 3,4, 5 and 6 with Ms Wilson at Exeter Public School, year 3/4 with Ms Chesworth at Yarrawarra Public School, class 6 blue with Mr Zagame at St Catherine Laboure Catholic Primary School in Gympie, class 5/6J with Miss Gillespie at Lucas Heights Community School in Barden Ridge and class 4B with Miss Barry at Berwick Lodge Primary School.

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

1. Lake Eyre
2. Titanium
3. Latvia

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 Part One of our Q&A Episode with the Governor General Sam Mostyn.

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