

First week jitters for Aussie pollies; Utah's underground power station; the action hero in fake news foul-up; and Australia's top dog.

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 July 24 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... First week jitters for Aussie pollies; Utah's underground power station; the action hero in fake news foul-up; and Australia's top dog.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Do you remember your first day at school? Fresh new uniform, fresh new hair cut, a slight jangling of the nerves as you entered a new school and a new classroom that you'd never been in before?

That's what many of our brand new federal politicians are experiencing this week as they spend the next two weeks in Canberra, as the 48th parliament of Australia begins.

You remember back in May how Australia had a federal election? Kind of like a school captain's election - but on a much bigger, country-wide scale? Well - at that election every community, every suburb, every electorate in the country chose someone to go to Canberra and represent them in Federal Parliament ... and this week Federal Parliament was opened by Squiz Kids' friend, the Governor General, Sam Mostyn and the serious business of running the country has once again gotten underway.

And for the new politicians - the Members of Parliament who were elected for the first time - that meant taking the time on Tuesday to make what are called First Speeches - a chance to introduce themselves and talk about what their plans and priorities will be.

And if you're interested to learn more about how things work in Canberra - then hop on over to the Squiz Kids website and hop on into our four-part podcast series, the Sensational World Of Civics .. it's your country and your Parliament afterall ...

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 Utah - a state in the USA - where a great big drill has dug a great big hole deep into the earth's crust to access a form of energy that could power the electricity for every home in the world.

It's called geothermal energy .. and it basically means using the heat that exists naturally deep beneath the earth's surface to power generators up here on the ground that in turn create electricity. It's an example of what's called 'clean energy' - because it doesn't require the burning of fossil fuels to create it. And there are clever scientists right here in Australia working on making geothermal energy an efficient way for us to keep the lights on. And next term - in a new Squiz Kids series called Planet Warriors - you'll learn a whole lot more about this ..

ANIMAL KINGDOM

It was a toss up today when choosing stories for this segment whether to go with the couple in Canada who scared off a grizzly bear while walking in the forest, or the border collie that's been named top dog in Australia..

And because my dog is a border collie and I reckon he is totally Australia's top dog - I've gone with the pooch.

And taking out the title of top dog in this year's Australian Working Cattle Dog Championships held this week in Casino, in country NSW - was none other than tri-colour border collie Eva from Queensland ... who so impressed judges with her ability to round up mobs of cattle and guide them through an obstacle course that she beat 180 other dogs to win the title, a trophy and \$11,000 in prize money for her owner.

Good dog!

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 today he's sniffed a fake to do with some of Hollywood's best known celebrities.

Jason Statham is an action movies star known for movies like The Meg and Gnomeo and Juliet ... you'd know his face if you saw him. So you can imagine how troubling it was for him to wake up last week and see Facebook posts claiming that he had died.

That was news to him. Because he hadn't.

And he wasn't the only one to be the subject of a fake celebrity death online ... America's Got Talent judge Simon Cowell suffered the same fate - with post circulating online that he had died. Which he hadn't.

Now - a good Newshound like Squiz-E knows to always STOP, THINK and CHECK whenever we come across any piece of information on the internet .. and a quick check of reliable sources of information would have quickly shown that the death claims were untrue.

So why do people create and circulate them in the first place? Because they know people will click on the story and share the story without checking, and that will make more people click on it - and the more clicks, the more money they make.

Making money out of lies ... Squiz-E is not happy.

And remember: Squiz Kids very own, very-free media literacy resource for primary school kids is available on our website, squizkids.com.au. Get involved already!

((Q+A CALL OUT

Hands up if you've heard of a book called the Thirteen Storey Treehouse? Then you probably also know the 26, 39, 52 and all the way up to 169 Storey Treehouse books ... and you quite possibly know the author, Andy Griffiths.

Well Andy is great friend of Squiz Kids – and on the occasion of the impending release of his new book, You and Me & The Peanut Butter Beast - Andy has bravely agreed to take the Squiz Kids hotseat and take part in another Squiz Kids Q+A ... (CHEER).

This is your chance to ask ANYTHING you want of one of the most popular and successful kids' authors in Australia.

How and where does he write? How does he come up with his kooky ideas? Who was his favourite author when he was your age? What's his favourite ever storey in the treehouse? Does he have a pet? What does he do when he's not writing? Anything at all.

And here's the fun part ... The ten best questions will win a copy of Andy's new book .. AND the best question - as judged by Andy - will win a double pass to see Andy in person - like IRL - at his Opera House show in Sydney in September (CHEER)

So - don't just sit there - send in your questions already! Email them to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au - before Tues Aug 5 ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Is the new Parliament that's just opened the 45th, 48th or 49th Australian Parliament?
2. Eva the top cattle-driving working dog in Australia comes from which state?
3. What do we call the form of clean energy that draws on the heat beneath the surface of the Earth?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday July 24 ... today is wildlife warrior Bindi Irwin's birthday ... and also the birthday of pop singer, J-Lo ... let's get loud ...

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

Beth from Exeter, Trevor from Maitland, Caitlin from Beaconsfield, Stella from Blackburn and Flossie from Lobethal.

And we are still working our way through the belated shoutouts from the recent school holidays... Let's crack out the 'ol birthday reggae tune... hit it!

It's a happy *belated* birthday to... Kai from Parapurdoo, Adam from Pakenham, Ella from Beecroft, Eevee from Randwick, Alex from Vermont South, Paloma from Exeter, Clarence from Dundas Valley, Tom from Seabrook, Chelsea, Miranda and Natalia from Kurri Kurri, Amelia from Castlecrag, Harper from Dudley, Eliza from Stirling, Krish and Ishaan from Figtree, Caiden from Hammond Park, Max from Beecroft, Alon from Maroubra and Bo from Palm Beach.

Don't forget classroom shoutouts will resume next week so get your teacher to submit a request for a classroom shoutout via the online link on our webpage - or drop us an email!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 48th
2. Queensland
3. Geothermal

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 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.