

YouTube ban for kids; Aussie rocket goes boom; AI tiger trade fake; and a giant claw grabs a record.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina -

It's Thursday July 31 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... YouTube ban for kids; Aussie rocket goes boom; AI tiger trade fake; and a giant claw grabs a record.

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

THE LOWDOWN

What do Minecraft, music vids, and funny animal fails have in common? They're all things you might watch on YouTube. And, from December 10, you'll need to be at least 16 years old to have an account to do that. That's because the Australian government has added YouTube to its list of banned social media platforms for under-16s, joining TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and X. It means no more signing in, liking, commenting or subscribing.

The change came after research by the eSafety Commission, involving 2,600 kids, found YouTube was the platform where Aussie kids were most likely to experience harm online, from violent videos and dangerous challenges to hateful or upsetting content. Almost 37% of young people said it was where they'd seen the most harmful stuff.

The government says it's concerned about the platform's algorithms (the behind-the-scenes tech that keeps you watching, even when the content might not be good for you).

But don't panic, you won't lose YouTube altogether. YouTube Kids is still OK, and you'll still be able to watch most videos without logging in. Messaging apps like WhatsApp, online games and services like Kids Helpline aren't affected either.

It's a big change, but it's all about making the internet safer for kids.

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 the Philippines, where one arcade game has just smashed a world record.

Meet the Claw King...officially the world's biggest claw machine. Standing as tall as a two-storey house and as wide as a double garage door, this mega machine is the star attraction at an arcade in Cebu City.

It was designed by a local artist, who's famous on TikTok with nearly 12 million followers! The project blends traditional Filipino carnival fun with modern tech and aims to attract more tourists to the city.

The best part? You can actually play it! Imagine the size of the soft toys you could win!

I've popped a video link in your episode notes... go check it out. Warning: it may cause extreme claw machine envy.

SPACED OUT

What goes up... sometimes comes straight back down. But that doesn't mean it's a failure.

This morning, Australia's first Aussie-built rocket lifted off... then came crashing back to Earth.

The rocket, called Eris, was built by Gold Coast-based company Gilmour Space Technologies, and launched from a pad in Bowen, Queensland. It's the first time an Australian-made rocket has left the ground in more than 50 years. And, while it didn't reach space, it did fire all four engines and successfully clear the launch pad.

CEO Adam Gilmour called it a win, saying the first launch is always the hardest, and every second of flight brings valuable data to help improve the next one. And yep, launch number two is already in the works.

In future, Gilmour hopes to send small satellites into orbit to help track the weather, monitor the environment, and boost communications. And their first official payload? A satellite... and a jar of Vegemite.

One small flight for a rocket... one giant leap for Australia's space industry.

NEWSHOUNDS

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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 his nose is twitching because of a viral video showing Royal Bengal Tigers being sold at a market in Bangladesh.

The video shows a reporter walking through what looks like a tiger market, with people lined up to sell big cats. It's been shared thousands of times. But is it real?

Some smart investigators used a reverse image search, that's where you upload a photo or video to see where it's been used before. They found extended versions of the video labelled as AI-generated, and spotted a watermark from Google's video-making AI tool, Veo.

Plus, a special tool called SynthID, which detects AI-made content, confirmed it was created by artificial intelligence. (There's a link in your episode notes if you want to learn more.)

Oh, and in real life, Royal Bengal Tigers are endangered, protected by law, and not for sale in markets. Ever.

Nice try, fake news, but Squiz-E's on to you.

Want to learn more about handy tools like reverse image searches? Hop on over to the Squiz Kids website, and you can sign up for our 9-part program on digital media literacy, Newshounds. Its totally free and totally fun.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. From December 10, how old will you need to be to have a YouTube account?
2. What is the name of the rocket that was launched in Queensland yesterday?
3. Which type of animal is being depicted as being sold at a market in a fake video?
(and I need you to be specific)

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, July 31 ... National Avocado Day. Whether you like yours smashed on toast or blended in a smoothie, today's the day to go green and creamy!

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Elizabeth from Forest Lake, Yasmine from Fernvale, Hayley from Ashmont, Maddie from Lyneham and Charlotte from Rochdale.

Belated shoutouts go to... Eddie from Auckland, Eden from Dural and Ella from Fremantle.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Room 14 and Mrs O'Brien and Mrs Duckworth at Karrinyup Primary School, class 5/6J and Miss Gillespie at Lucas Heights Community School in Barden Ridge and class 5/6 Platypus at Jewells Primary School and a big hello to their teacher Ms Garfoot who is currently away from school - your students are missing you!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 16
2. Eris
3. Royal Bengal Tiger

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.