

Australians rally for big causes; marimba magic rocks South Africa; a teen pilot takes flight; and a Labubu boo-hoo.

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 Wednesday August 6 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Australians rally for big causes; marimba magic rocks South Africa; a teen pilot takes flight; and a Labubu boo-hoo.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Big crowds gathered in two different parts of Australia over the past few days, one to celebrate culture and call for change, and the other to speak out for peace on the other side of the world.

First to the Northern Territory, where the Garma Festival marked its 25th anniversary. It's the biggest celebration of Indigenous culture and one of the most important events for First Nations people in Australia. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attended and announced over \$175 million in new programs.

It's all part of a national plan called Closing the Gap, which started in 2008. The aim is to make sure First Nations Australians have the same health, education, and job opportunities as everyone else. Right now, progress has been slow, and many communities still face unfair disadvantages. That's why the government says it's important to give First Nations people more agency: that means control over the decisions that affect them, their land, and their futures.

Meanwhile, in Sydney, around 90,000 people marched peacefully across the Harbour Bridge to support people in Gaza, where there's a terrible humanitarian crisis. Gaza is a small, crowded strip of land between Israel and Egypt, where more than two million

people live. It's been in the news a lot lately because of a long-running conflict. Police were worried it might not be safe, but a court ruled the protest could go ahead, and it stayed calm and respectful.

Many Australians support a plan called the two-state solution, where Israel and Palestine would exist side by side. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says it's important to protect the right to protest, and he's asked to meet with Israel's leader to talk about helping people in need.

Because when people speak up together, it can lead to real change.

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 South Africa, where more than 1,200 students have smashed a world record by playing music together!

They now hold the Guinness World Record for the largest marimba ensemble ever. A marimba is a wooden instrument, a bit like a xylophone. You hit it with mallets to make joyful, bouncy sounds. Fun Fact: Marimba was the default ringtone that came with the very first iPhone in 2007, and if you've ever heard a bright, plinky-plonky melody coming from someone's phone, chances are it was this one.

Students travelled from across South Africa, and even two schools from Zimbabwe joined in. The event was organised by a group called Marimba Jam, which helps schools learn music and celebrates African culture.

I've popped a link in your episode notes so you can hear the music for yourself. The medley includes Shakira's Waka Waka, which FYI is my favourite Just Dance of all time!

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

What do you think most 15-year-olds will be doing this weekend? Catching up on homework? Hanging out with friends? Playing footy? Well, this 15-year-old is about to take off on a mission to fly around the world.

His name is Byron Waller, and he's set to become the youngest supported pilot ever to complete a flight around the globe. Taking off from Brisbane this Saturday, and flying through Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, North America, and back home again in just two months.

It's not just about breaking records. Byron lives with Crohn's disease, a serious illness he was diagnosed with last year, and he's using this epic adventure to raise awareness for other kids living with chronic health conditions.

He says flying brings joy to his life and he wants to use it to help others. There's a link in your episode notes where you can track Byron's journey. Byron Waller, Squiz Kids salutes you!

POP CULTURE CORNER

What happens when a cute, big-eyed mystery-box monster becomes a global trend? Counterfeiters rush in to make cash!

That's the story of Labubu dolls. If you've been living under a rock, they're the collectable plush creatures sold by Pop Mart. And, last year, a whopping \$2.7 billion dollars worth of Labubus were sold.

Because they're so rare and so in demand, fake versions, called Lafufus have flooded the market. These knock-offs often have extra teeth, rougher fur, missing logos and the worst part is they easily fall apart... which is sad on its own, but it also poses a safety risk for young children who might choke on the broken bits.

Real Labubus have exactly nine teeth, neat Pop Mart logos, soft fur, and a hidden UV icon under the right foot. Even scanning a QR code doesn't guarantee authenticity because fakes can be put inside a real box.... How dodgy!! Beware of sellers offering bargain prices

If your Labubu doesn't tick all those boxes, it might be a Lafufu, and not worth the risk. Stay safe, collect smart, and we've stuck a guide to identifying fake Lafufus in the episode notes!

BOOK WEEK CALL OUT

Woo hoo! Book Week is just around the corner!

If you're all about reading, or just love a good dress-up, then this is your moment.

This year's theme is "Book an Adventure"—so whether you're dressing up as a brave explorer, a time-travelling detective, or your favourite book character, we want to see it!

Our annual Book Week Costume Competition is back. We've got awesome book packs up for grabs for the most creative, clever, or hilarious costumes.

Here's how to enter:

Get your parent or teacher to take a photo of your costume and post it to Instagram, tagging @squizkids or using the hashtag #squizkids or email your photo to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au. Make sure to tell us your name, age, the city or town you're from and which character you are dressed as.

You can enter on your own, with your family, or as a whole class.

And teachers—there's a special prize just for you, too!

Entries are open now and close at the end of Book Week on Friday, August 22—so get those hot glue guns going (with parental supervision, of course).

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the name of the big First Nations festival held each year in the Northern Territory?
2. Name the instrument that was used to set a record in South Africa recently.
3. What epic adventure is Byron Waller starting off on this weekend?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, August 6 ... On this day wayyyy back in 1991, a computer scientist named Tim Berners-Lee launched a little something called the World Wide Web aka The Internet... which made it possible to click on links to visit websites like we do every day now.

He created it so people around the world could easily share and find information—especially for school and science—and because he believed knowledge should be free for everyone.

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Archie from Raceview, Henry from Gowrie, Lilian from St Ives, Emma from Preston, Majella from Hartwood and Seb from Urrbrae.

Belated shoutouts go to... Bentleigh and Millie from Bundaberg, Ivy from Gisborne, Aviana from East Lindfield and Alannah from The Rock.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5 Blue with Mrs K at Holy Spirit Primary School in Kurri Kurri, class 5/6M with Mrs Pritchard and Mr Chanel at Belair Public School in Adamstown Heights, class 3A with Ms Axiom at Eglinton Public School and class 5/6 with Mrs O'Brien at Aria Park Central School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. The Garma Festival
2. The Marimba
3. He is going to fly around the world.

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 with

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