

A big battery powers up; French statues talk back; a bear trolls a troll; and a TikTok tall tale.

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 August 7 -

In Squiz Kids Today ...A big battery powers up; French statues talk back; a bear trolls a troll; and a TikTok tall tale

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

THE LOWDOWN

They're in your torch, your tablet, and your TV remote, but not all batteries are small. This week, one of the world's largest batteries was switched on in Australia, designed to help power thousands of homes.

It's called the Waratah Super Battery, and it's the size of eight AFL fields. It's been built on the site of an old coal-fired power station on the New South Wales Central Coast, and it's set to play a huge role in Australia's shift from coal to cleaner energy.

With more Aussies installing rooftop solar than almost anywhere in the world, we're generating heaps of power during the day. But that's not when we need it most. Big batteries like Waratah help store solar energy for when people get home and crank up the lights, TVs and ovens.

We've got a podcast series all about renewable energy coming in Term Four, so stay tuned.

And from energy on Earth to energy in space... NASA has fast-tracked plans to build a nuclear reactor on the Moon to power future lunar bases. Earlier this year, China and Russia said they plan to build one by 2035, so it's a bit of a space race. But launching

nuclear material into space comes with safety risks, and some scientists say we need clear rules to protect the Moon for everyone.

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 Alaska, in the United States, at Katmai National Park, where a grizzly bear has been trolling a troll. What the What??

So, regular Squiz Kids listeners might remember Katmai's Brooks Falls as the famous salmon-catching spot where grizzlies bulk up before their long winter naps. But it's also popular with tourists, and, apparently, ice hockey players.

Back in June, members of the Seattle Kraken ice hockey team, and their blue-haired mascot, Buoy the troll, visited the falls to try fly fishing. But, video just released shows their peaceful outing turning bear-y dramatic when a huge grizzly splashes towards them.

The bear charged at Buoy, yes, the mascot, before turning away at the last second. The humans and the troll carefully waded back to shore, safe, but shaken and soggy.

Lesson learned: if you go fishing in bear country, don't troll the locals.

And, of course, I've stuck a link to photos in the episode notes..

POP CULTURE CORNER

Imagine strolling through a peaceful garden... birds chirping, fountains bubbling—and suddenly, a statue starts talking to you. My advice? Run! Unless, of course, you're in France.

At the Palace of Versailles, once home to French royalty and the famous Sun King, Louis XIV, some of the garden's ancient statues have found their voice, thanks to artificial intelligence.

With a quick scan of a QR code and a smartphone app, visitors can now chat with twenty statues and fountains, and ask them to spill juicy secrets, fun facts, and tales of palace life.

These gardens are packed with more than 800 sculptures, many inspired by mythical gods like Apollo and Neptune. But now, instead of just posing, some are telling their side of the story.

It's history with a high-tech twist, and possibly the only time it's OK to talk to a statue and not look silly.

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 his nose is twitching because of a viral TikTok video with a too-good-to-be-true claim.

"COUPLE FOUND ALIVE AFTER 25 YEARS LOST AT SEA" screamed the caption. The video said Mark and Jennifer Patterson who really did disappear in 1999 while sailing from Florida to the Bahamas... had just been found floating on a raft, rescued by a cargo ship off the coast of Brazil. And, over 12 million people watched the clip in just a few days!

But Squiz-E wasn't buying it. He searched high and low across trusted news sites, and found nothing. If a couple really had survived 25 years at sea, the world's biggest media outlets would definitely be reporting it.

Digging deeper, Squiz-E discovered the video was posted by ScaryTok—a TikTok account known for satire. Satire is when stories are made up to entertain or poke fun, definitely not to be taken seriously. And yep, this one was AI-generated, with a faint watermark, "AI satire news" in the hashtags.

Want to learn how to sniff out fakes just like Squiz-E? Sign up for Newshounds, our 9-part lesson series at squizkids.com.au!

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. Which Australian native flower, starting with 'W' is the super-battery named after?
2. Which American ice hockey team is Buoy the troll the mascot for?
3. Which 2 ancient mythical gods did I mention are statues in the gardens of Versailles Palace?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, August 7 ... Jeans for Genes Day! The day we pull on our favourite pair of jeans to raise awareness – and money – for kids born with genetic conditions. Every dollar helps fund research into life-changing treatments and cures, and supports the amazing equipment and care that help these kids live their happiest, healthiest lives.

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

Tyler from Exeter, Sienna from Deakin, Tom from Roseville, Kady from Petrie and Harvey from Port Macquarie.

Classroom shout outs go to... Buninje Class with Miss Wilkonson at Tabulam Public School, class 6R and Mrs Roy at Saint Stephen's College on the Gold Coast, class B4 at Excelsior Primary School in Canning Vale and 8.5 English Class with Ms Devlin at St John Fisher College in Bracken Ridge.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Waratah
2. The Seattle Krakens
3. Apollo and Neptune

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.