

SA's soy-sauce fish ban; India's garbage cafes; the great London Zoo weigh-in; and a cruise-ship-chaos fake.

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 August 21 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... SA's soy-sauce fish ban; India's garbage cafes; the great London Zoo weigh-in; and a cruise-ship-chaos fake.

THE LOWDOWN

Hands up if you've ever had take away sushi? I can't see you - but I'm guessing a whole lot of you have your hands in the air. And keep your hands up if you've enjoyed a splash of soy sauce on your sushi roll ... mmmmmm ... that salty goodness packaged up in those cute little plastic fish.

Well - the soy sauce fish may soon be a thing of the past - with South Australia passing a new law to ban them as part of its crackdown on what's called single use plastics.

What's a single use plastic, I hear you ask?

It's exactly what it sounds like ... a piece of plastic - think a plastic fork or straw or plate or bag - that is intended to be used only once, then thrown out.

And the thing is: they're really bad for the environment. Not least because once you throw them out, they go into landfill and take aaaaaaages to breakdown.

Or - worse - they make their way into the natural environment - like rivers, lakes and oceans - and cause all sorts of problems for the fish, turtles, dolphins and birds that live there.

And so, from September 1 - South Australia will ban the soy sauce fish - with other Australian states considering following their lead.

Because while they're a super convenient way to get a little soy sauce hit - there are other types of packaging that aren't nearly as damaging to the environment. And because making small changes in the ways we behave can have a big impact on the other creatures we share this planet with.

And if it helps out a seabird or a turtle - isn't that worth it?

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 India .. where people are eating in cafes and paying for it with garbage.

Yes, you heard right, they're using garbage to pay for their meals.

The garbage cafes serve the usual kind of food you find in India ... curries, rice, samosas and dal. But instead of handing over cash at the end of your meal, customers hand over plastic waste they have collected from the street.

One kilogram of plastic rubbish - be it water bottles, plastic bags or food wrappers - will get you an entire meal, including rice, roti, salad pickles and two veggie curries.

Yes - veggies - because they're good for you .. stop pulling faces up the back there ...

And the best bit? It solves two problems at once. There are lots of people in India who don't have a lot of money and struggle to find nutritious meals to eat. And there's a lot of plastic waste. These new government-run cafes are filling empty tummies and helping to clean up the streets. Genius!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Have you ever seen your mum or dad step up onto the bathroom scales and let out a groan? Yeah- happens in my house too. So spare a thought for the thousands of animals who call London Zoo home who this week have taken part in the zoo's annual weigh in.

One of the important jobs for zookeepers is to make sure the animals in their care are well fed - but don't lose too much weight, and don't put too much weight on. Which is to say: that they have a good diet and enough exercise.

And to keep track - they perform an annual weigh-in - where they take a set of scales into every animal enclosure and - often using food - persuade the animals to hop on to be weighed.

We're talking penguins, meerkats, lemurs, capybaras and even the zoo's resident Galapagos giant tortoise ...

My question is: who convinced the elephant to get on the scales? And how big have those scales got to be? And what about the snakes? Do they use the zoo's scales, or do they bring their own? (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... ah there it is .. the dad joke alarm .. I actually thought that was one of my better ones ..

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 he smells a fake - this time in the form of a video that's doing the rounds of Facebook, TikTok and Instagram. It shows a cruise ship ploughing through enormous waves, with people on the deck being blown sideways and even jumping overboard... it's a very dramatic video and not surprisingly, has been shared hundreds of thousands of times ... except the entire thing is a fake. It's an AI-generated video - taking videos of big waves and editing them with videos of cruise ships - pretending to show as a matter of fact, something that never happened.

And it's another reason why we should always do as Squiz-E tells us each week - and that's to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything we see when we're online.

And another reason to check out Newshounds - Squiz Kids very own, totally free media literacy resource for primary school kids - teaching them separate online fact from fiction.

Head to quizkids.com.au to get involved ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country are garbage cafes offering food in exchange for plastic waste?
2. Which Aussie state has banned plastic soy sauce fish?
3. Name the zoo where animals are this week taking part in an annual weigh in?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, August 21 ... birthday of the world's fastest man, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt

It's also my lovely wife, Shay's birthday. So if you happen to share a birthday with her, you must be a pretty special person ...

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

Ariya from Forest Lake, Titus from Mitcham, Isaac from Melbourne, Bailey from Abbotsford, Magnus from Subiaco, Sidney from Fairlight, Bonnie from Wagga Wagga, Harper from Burkekup, Ava from Gordonvale and Emin from Sydney.

Classroom shout outs go to... class 6E with Ms Harford at Sherwood State School, class 5A with Mr Guy at Mansfield State School and room 32 with Mr Ward at Salisbury Heights Primary School.

And finally, a shout out to our newest Squiz Kids listener - the Speaker of The House of Australia's Federal Parliament - Milton Dick, MP ... who's promised to add Squiz Kids to his podcast list on his morning run. Great to have you on board Mr Speaker ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. India
2. South Australia
3. London Zoo

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 the Kids v Adults Weekly News S'Quiz – your chance to test who's been paying the most attention to the week that just was ..

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